

Official Journal of the National Brotherhood Electrical Workers of America.

VOL. 8, NO. 10.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., MAY, 1899.

SINGLE COPIES, 10 CENTS.
\$1.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE

The Pan-American Exposition.

By John Dennis.

It is probable that every reader of the Electrical Worker is aware that a grand Pan-American Exposition is to be held in the city of Buffalo in the year 1901, and that preparations are now making with the determination that it shall be the most notable exposition in which the entire Western Hemisphere is interested that has ever been held.

At first sight it would seem to be a little early to forecast this Exposition, and especially to consider it in reference to its relation to the electrical industry, with which we are especially concerned. It must be remembered, however, that no great and comprehensive exposition can be created in a year, and this is especially true when the art of electricity is to form such an important factor. Two years will be little enough, even with the energetic board of managers to which has been assigned the work, to prepare for a fair on the gigantic scale which has been laid out.

A good many interesting things might be written regarding the preparations for the great fair, for which the energetic people of the Bison City are already arranging. In one respect it will be unique, as the great countries which lie to the south of us have been given to understand plainly that the Pan-American Exposition will be such in fact as well as in name; that the interests of the Central and South American countries are, for once, to be conserved, and that they are to be part and parcel of the fair, and not mere adjuncts in the way of a Midway Plaisance, nor in insignificant annexes. It is, however, with the Exposition in its electrical phases, and the gigan-

tic preparations which must be made, if Buffalo is to make good its claim to be known as the "Electrical City." While the programme of the managers regarding the electrical features of the Exposition has not been perfected, it is known, in a general way, that the highest advance of the art on all lines will be demonstrated. Perhaps the most significant indication of this intention is found in the evidences of activity at Niagara Falls, from whence, of course, the greater part of the energy will be transmitted for all the purposes of the Exhibition. There is no mistaking the meaning of the large influx of capital representing electrical industries which is setting toward Buffalo and Niagara Falls; neither is there any occasion for disguising the fact that it finds its warrant in the importance which electricity will assume in making the Exposition a success. The transmission of power from Niagara Falls to Buffalo in the form of electricity under high voltage, and its adaptability to economical use in that city, both in alternating form and after transformation into continuous current, and in a commercial way, is no longer a matter of experiment. It has resolved itself into a question of the amount of power available at the Falls, the appliances for generating it in the form of electricity, and copper for transmission. It seems to be conceded that sufficient power can be obtained, and the remaining two factors reduce themselves to the question of capital; and this sort of energy is turning towards Buffalo and Niagara Falls in enormous volume.

It may fairly be taken for granted, therefore, that the Pan-American Exposition will not be lacking in that which is essential to the success of its electrical features, upon which so much stress is already properly laid. Indeed, it does not require that

one be a prophet or the son of a prophet to foresee that the enormous resources of Niagara Falls will be taxed to furnish an adequate amount of energy.

As has been said it is too early to fairly estimate the electrical necessities of the Pan-American Exposition, and the industries which will be necessarily connected with it, for it must not be forgotten that an exposition of the character of the one planned for Buffalo stimulates many industries which must, from the very nature of the case, depend upon electricity, in some form, for their energy. It is right here, it seems to me, that the interest of practical electricians in the Pan-American Exposition centers. I may possibly overestimate the importance of electricity in connection with the great fair, and in its preparation, but I am not at present convinced that my estimate is excessive.

Take for instance the item of electric railways alone. It must not be forgotten that the great south country is yet, to a great extent, to be provided with this modern means of rapid transit. It is not to be imagined that visitors from Central and South American cities will be allowed to visit the Exposition without witnessing the most recent advance in the art. Already additional electric lines have been projected between Buffalo and Niagara Falls not only, but to other points of interest, and there is no room to doubt that the art, as it may be advanced in the year after next, will be fully exemplified. Indications are not lacking that, before the Exposition of 1901 opens its gates, the use of the polyphase alternating current will have wrought a revolution in street railway practice.

Indeed, it would seem to be the part of ordinary business prudence and enterprise to give to the electrical industry its full

meed of importance, not only in the preparations for the Pan-American Exposition, but in the Fair itself.

When we stop a moment to consider the opportunities which will be afforded the Pan-American Exposition for the utilization of the electric current, one may fairly stand aghast. Owing to the almost unlimited supply of energy which the cataract of Niagara and abundant capital will place at its disposal, it is not to be imagined that the managers of the Exposition will omit any opportunities. Electricity is just now advancing by strides which no man may measure. What advancements the coming two years will witness, none can tell. Certain it is, however, that the opportunity is offered for exploiting these advancements, whether they be on the lines of purely commercial endeavor or in the demonstration of the most recent scientific revelations.

Wireless telegraphy, the Roentgen energy, recent discoveries and applications on therapeutic lines, and the many applications of the electric fluid which might, for want of a better expression, be called out of the common, will doubtless find a prominent exemplification for the first time at any general Exposition. This is partially because the Buffalo Fair will be the first exposition where full opportunity will be offered, but principally because the time is ripe.

In this brief and necessarily general article, I have not undertaken to cover fully any of the electrical features of what all anticipate will be the greatest of American, if not, indeed, the greatest of world Expositions. It has been my motive to call the attention of the practical readers of the Electrical Worker to what seems to me to be an important event in their lives. In fact, I know of no class of skilled artisans or professional people to whom the forthcoming Exposition appeals so strongly or to whom it affords greater opportunities.

As the two years of preparation pass, and as the great Exhibition reaches its full fruition, it will be a constant source of interest and enlightenment to every practical worker, as well as to those whose interest lies chiefly in the technical features of the art.

FRIENDS OF LABOR.

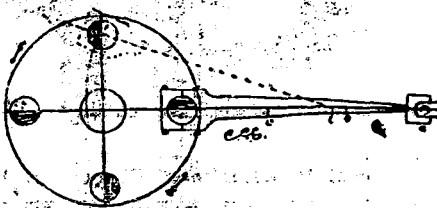
"It is with pleasure that we receive the contract of Cleveland & Whitehill Co., of Newburgh, N. Y., for term of advertising of their "Keystone" Overalls and Pants, and are requested by them to thank the members of our Organization and all Union men for their liberal patronage in the past, which has insured a continuance of their advertising. This is strictly a Union house with a record of nineteen years in business without a strike."

QUESTION BOX.

St. Joseph, Mo., April 17, '99.

Editor Electrical Worker:

In regard to Bro. McCarthy's question, "Where does the crosshead of an engine travel the faster, going towards the cylinder or towards the crank-pin?" It travels the same towards either, but travels farther or faster on the first and last quarter than on the other two, as will be seen by the accompanying drawing. A to D, full



stroke; A to B, half stroke; A to C travel of first quarter, C to D travel of 2d quarter, and so on. E to F first quarter, F to G 2d, G to H 3d, H to E 4th, or vice versa.

Respectfully,
C. C. ELY,
Local No. 40.

Sioux City, Ia., May 1, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

In reply to Bro. Ed. McCarthy's question of March 22, the answer is both ways, but he wants to know more than that, so I will try and make it plain. When the crank has made one-quarter turn and the center of the crank pin is plumb with the center of the crank shaft, you will find that the cross-head has passed or has not returned to the center of its stroke (measuring from the cylinder end), so the first quarter and last quarter revolution of the crank shaft the cross head travels the fastest, starting from the cylinder end. That makes it both ways. Hoping that this will answer. I am in favor of the question box; it is just what we want.

Fraternally Yours,
ALBERT SHORTLY,
Local No. 47.

Buffalo, April 25, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

In answer to Bro. Sutton's question :

On reaching end of cable face the end and start at marked wire to the right; then go to the other end of cable and facing end of cable begin at marked wire and go to the left; the same wire at left of marked wire will be the same as the right hand wire at the other end of cable or vice-versa. If you want to test your cable connect one end altogether and test from the opposite end. It is not necessary to tag your wires if one understands a cable. Therefore it will only be two trips over the bridge, one over and one back, which will be 10 cents.

P. S.—A question?

What is the advantage of running a flat wire for ground wire on lightning arresters in preference to a round one?

Yours respectfully,

OWEN McEWEN,
Local No. 41.

This is a problem we would like some of the brothers to answer. The question is, can you test a 100 H. P. generator by the use of a ten-horse engine and one hundred horse motor. If so, how, and if not, why?

I also wish to submit the following as a solution to the seven cable question asked last month:

First ground number 1 and tag same on each side, then go over bridge and ring it up and tag. Then short circuit one and two and ground three; go to the east side and test two for short circuit with number one, and test for number three with ground and tag same. Now short circuit one and four, two and five, three and six, and ground number seven. Then go over to west side, ring same up in the order named and tag and return to east side, making the car fare twenty cents.

M. P. S.

Editor Electrical Worker:

How should a splice connecting two ends of a million circular-mill, stranded wire cable be made to be used on outside pole line construction as a lighting or power feeder?

How should same be made for inside work where there is practically no strain on the joint?

What method of soldering and what kind of a soldering flux would you recommend?

P. C. FISH.

(Crowded out of April issue.)

No Free Samples.

Pumpville, Kan., April 14, 1899.

Office of the Nicko-Teso
Hot Air Climating Co.

The H. A. C. Co. has decided after a lengthy meeting of officers and stockholders not to distribute any free samples of air. While we are willing to have our books and system closely investigated and we invite all our friends to come and breathe all the air they can get in their lungs, we are not going to start a free distributing depot for air.

We have air to sell and air to breathe and one of our money makers will be a Humo Air Meter. In time we will have the pleasure of seeing every one over the age of 12 with an air meter which will accurately give the number of feet of air used by each person, and we intend to charge so much a year for machines. Every machine is warranted to separate the air from all microbes, bacteria and foul germs, thereby giving the wearer perfectly

pure oxygen and hydrogen. One could put on a Humo-Air Meter and walk through the embalming meat establishment of Armour & Co. and come out and say "never touched me." They could also pass through the halls of our *rotten* politicians and the reeking, filthy slums of Chicago's political dives and come out purer than the angels we read about.

With one of our celebrated purifiers on I believe we could sit in the halls of Congress and the house of American Lords (Senate) and depart purer than the beautiful snow. I am sorry to say to "Practical" that we never, no never, could send a free sample of air.

You tell your friend who has the \$16.00 to send it on,—the stenographer just told me we needed some postage stamps and ink. We do not intend to do anything with the foreign trade this Summer, as we believe that the home market well worked will be all that is possible for us to cover. Our expert, Mr. Nicko-Teso has plans and specifications for a car to run by liquid air and controlled by dried water. He expects to make a trial trip to Mars in the next 60 days. Should the car prove a success, and there is hardly a chance in these days of great men for failure, the fact will be duly published in our daily paper. The \$100,000 block of stock will be shipped by freight to Practical, Lima, Ohio. The carpenter is now boxing it up. Charges to be collected at both ends.

Yours truly,
J. L. SQUERGUHM,
Secretary.

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Cleveland, O., April 18, 1899.
Editor Electrical Worker:

If you can spare the space will you publish the following lines &c., in your May issue.

RETALIATION.

The Worker got here yesterday, and as I read its pages through,
I saw a reference to my sickness, a pen-picture Uncle drew.
Yes, I've spent months under cover, for what purpose I don't know,
While some hours are filled with sadness, others with bright moments glow.

When I'm feeling blue, despondent, then our Aunt and Uncle comes,
Then at once my thoughts are lifted from mind's low and gruesome slums;
(Not by the contents of the basket Auntie slips in the back way),
But the bright face of our Uncle and the pleasant things he'd say.

If he's quaint, 'tis all the better, every word comes from his heart;
All he says is to encourage me to better play my part,

And his pleasant "Ay there sonny, ain't you comin' down to work,
Goin' to lay there all the summer, surely you ain't goin' to shirk,"

Brings a smile in spite of fever, makes me glad in spite of pain,
While he talks, he does not murmur, none will hear our Tom complain.
Life is sunshine while he's present, with his wit he does beguile,
Time flies past and you are feeling, how he loves the rank and file.

Had this world a few more Uncles, and such wives as ours has got,
Brighter would be beds of sickness, happier be each brother's lot;
Then all jealousy and hatred, petty strife in life be gone,
And the day of love and gladness open with a sunny morn.

I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank Local 38 and each member thereof individually for all they have done for me and mine during my sickness. I will not try to enumerate, but please accept my sincerest thanks for all the many favors bestowed upon me by you.

Your Brother,
FRED E. WARD,
Local 38.

THE FRIENDS OF MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

As a result of municipal ownership some cities of Europe have no taxes to pay as they receive enough from public franchises to meet all the expenses of government.

The Glasgow Weekly Mail of April 15th has the following on the growth of municipalization in Great Britain, which will be an object lesson upon the advantage of municipal ownership.

How much have the ratepayers saved by municipalization of water supply? Sir James Bell answered this question in 1896. Up to May of that year they had saved in the domestic water rate alone, \$3,250,000; in meter charges, \$2,000,000; in trade charges, \$600,000, making a good \$6,500,000 in money, putting it roundly, which has been left in the pockets of the rate-payers and trade consumers by the reductions of rates and charges effected in the course of forty years of corporation management. The three years' additional savings since 1896 must bring up the total amount to \$7,500,000. But the savings that can be reckoned in money are trivial compared with the sanitary and social benefits that Glasgow has derived from the Loch Katrine supply.

The gas department can show results scarcely less satisfactory. We have now had thirty years' experience of municipal management of the gas supply and while the price has been reduced by more than

half, we have a system which for general efficiency and the pains taken to meet the wants and convenience of consumers could hardly be excelled. What the Tramway Department have done in improving the tramcar service and reducing fares is matter of common knowledge. We can only conjecture what the citizens have saved by the municipalization of these three departments alone. Fifteen million dollars would hardly be an extravagant guess.

The Warwick News, speaking upon the advantages of municipal ownership, says that out of a profit of \$70,000 on its investment in the South London street car system, the London County Council is going to establish a six-day week for their employes, as well as raise the wages of the lower grades to a living wage. In addition fares have been reduced nearly one-half, the passengers having only a fare of one cent and extra services have been put on.

At a meeting of the Dover corporation, it was stated that the result of the year's working of the municipal electric street cars was a sum of \$45,000 taken in one-cent fares. A profit of over \$10,000 has been made which goes towards the relief of the rates.

Surely such results of municipal ownership will bring about a change in this city and other cities so that the people may derive all the benefit possible from municipal economies now gobbled up by corporate bodies, who claim to be the benefactors rather than the beneficiaries of the municipalities.

In Memoriam.

Resolutions adopted on the death of Perry Johnson, by Local Union No. 45, N. E. W., at Buffalo, N. Y.

Whereas, Our union has sustained a sad loss in the death of our beloved Bro. Perry Johnson.

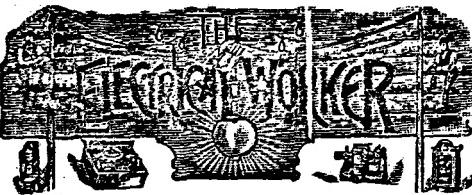
Resolved, That we, as a brotherly organization, pay tribute to his memory in these lines, as a character worthy of confidence, honor and justice, and that death was met as life had been lived.

Resolved, That as a union we most humbly bow submissive to the will of an Allwise God.

Resolved, That we drape our charter for the period of thirty days, as a token of respect; and be it further

Resolved, That we spread a copy of these resolutions on the minute book of Local No. 45, and that a copy be forwarded to his relatives and to our official journal for publication.

JAMES BRODERICK,
T. J. McDougall,
L. H. BANGERT,
Committee.



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
NATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS,
PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

H. W. SHERMAN, Publisher and Editor,
731 Powers Bldg., Rochester, N. Y.

Entered at the Post-Office at Rochester, N. Y.,
as second-class matter.

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Subscription \$1.00 per year, in advance.

As The Electrical Worker reaches the men who do the work and recommend or order the material, its value as an advertising medium can be readily appreciated.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., MAY, 1899.

W. N. Gates, Special Advertising Agent,
29 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, O.



SPINNING PRINT, ROCHESTER.

N. B. E. W.

After working under adverse circumstances for seven years the N. B. E. W. can at last see a ray of sunshine and hope; can see the possibility of making itself one of the greatest labor organizations of the day. The time is now ripe for every member to put his shoulder to the wheel and work unceasingly for the good of all concerned, dropping all petty differences, all thought of malice. Keep in mind the good and welfare of our craft. It is not a question of who is or who will be its head, for without the support of the members the heads can accomplish nothing. With an earnest effort on the part of each member of this Brotherhood the next Convention should be the record-breaker. In the few months we have left us show our manhood, our unionism, by doing all we can. If mistakes have been made in the past, let us profit by them. If officers have been tried and found wanting, in a few months changes can be made, to the satisfaction of all. A man who has the welfare of this Brotherhood at heart must have higher

aims and motives than catering to any one for office. A man who has the interests of the Brotherhood at heart works for the good of all, and not a certain few; deals on the broad grounds that the concern of one is the concern of all. If we will take this for our motto we must win. Let us drop petty jealousies and bickerings and get together. While this Brotherhood has made rapid strides in the past two years financially and numerically, there is still a great work to do, and it will take individual efforts to accomplish the desired end. If you know some good fellow who has allowed himself to become suspended through some trivial thing, go to him and try and convince him he has made an error. Remember, a little word in kindness spoken, a motion or tear, has often healed the heart that's broken and made a friend sincere. Get all the new members you can, and let the year of '99 be the banner year of this Brotherhood.

Work for its best interest at all times, and if you hear this fellow or that one is talking behind your back and saying you are trying to be the whole thing, take consolation in the thought, it's the roaring lion that faces the cur that snaps at your heels. Pay no attention to idle rumors, for while they are ripping you they are letting up on some other poor fellow, and you are accomplishing a good unexpectedly. In time you will become hardened in the movement, get used to it; in fact, like to have some fellow tell you so-and-so said so-and-so. You realize you are before the people. Don't expect every one to be your friend; this is impossible. In order to have friends you must have enemies. Never let friendship interfere with business. A local, to be a success, must be run on business principles. Now, let us get imbued with business, do all we can for the organization, and we can say all is well that ends well.

ROBERT WRIGHT BOX.

Previously acknowledged	\$42.05
Local No. 4	25.25
Local No. 72	2.50
Local No. 5	4.52
Local No. 38	15.00

Total \$89.32

After numerous appeals the above amount has been realized, which is not enough to start Bro. Wright in business. Let us try and raise at least 250 dollars. We are sure there is not a man in the Brotherhood but what can afford a small sum for this purpose. Remember dimes make dollars, and dollars will make sunshine in Robert Wright's home. It is hard enough to be a helpless cripple, but when a man has to see and realize that the wife and little ones are in need, it makes matters worse. Now it is up to thousands of

strong able bodied men to raise a few dollars. How slow it comes in. Remember the old adage, "We are all born but not buried." We can none of us tell what may fall to us. Bro. Wright needs money, needs it badly. We have held the money back with the expectation of getting enough to start him in business. Now Brothers, in the name of suffering humanity, remember your obligation to help a needy brother and send on your mite and help this fund. Now that the sunshine has come again, let's make Bro. Wright feel as though life was worth living, and, although helpless, he is not forgotten, that we are his brothers and true friends.

From "Old Crip."

Raton, New Mex., May 5, 1899.
Editor Electrical Worker:

Although I am in bed, I will try to write a few words to our journal. I read last month's Worker with much interest, especially "Uncle Tom's" letter in which he sets forth a plan to have the B. help me, for which he has my everlasting gratitude. I am only sorry that I cannot find the proper words in which to express my gratitude to him and to Bro. W. A. Breee and others who have been trying to help me. I certainly need some money very badly, and if I had enough money to stock my stand and once get started, I feel sure I could get along all right. I don't know how I am to make it if I don't get some money before long, but of course I will do the best that a helpless man can do, which, of course, isn't much. I received \$1.50 a few days ago from Local 42, to pay for six of my books, which I sent them last year, and for which I am very thankful. I also received \$5.00 from Mr. W. C. Stewart, the city electrician at St. Joseph, Mo., and although he has never met me, he had read in the Worker of my terrible condition and his heart was in sympathy with me. I spent the \$5.00 for flour, etc. Local No. 1 voted \$5.00 toward buying me a rolling chair, and Bro. Phil. Fish is going to raise the balance to buy the chair. I will be so happy if I get the chair, for then my wife will not have to lift me about so much. Well, brothers, I am so weak to-day I will close by wishing you health and happiness.

Fraternally,
ROBERT G. WRIGHT.

Men Who Scabbed In St. Louis During No.
3's Strike.

MISSOURI-EDISON.

*Jno. McGann.	*Frank Kelly,
*L. Baldwin,	*Dick Harris,
*Chas. Addelman,	*Harry Murphy,
*Joe Edwards,	*Frank Maher,
*Joe Aber,	*Walter Baldwin,
Geo. McLaughlin.	Harry Swarthing,
Fred Schantz,	Tom Watts,
Jack McCune,	Jim Carr,

Bill Kelly,
Lee Cassavant,
Frank Widoe,
Jas. Murphy,
Rube Smith,

Tony Burkle,
Frank Burns,
Tim Murphy,
Chas. Pipes,
Del. Scott.

BELL TELEPHONE.

Chas. Phillips, Bill O'Dell,
Geo. Johnson (scabby) Noah Maclamore,
Frank Cocus, L. Hull,
*Mike Cunningham, Jim Breen,
*Chas. Johnson, Fred Obermiller,
Frank Haverstraw, Bill Gillin,
Jack Carson, Andy Gamble,
Ed. Warentine, Al. Hayslip,
Bill Ogle, John Simons,
Jno. (Baldy) Hamble John Eiker,
Jno. (Heckery) Darrah, Wm. Ingstrom,
Henry Casey, *Dick Lewis,
Wm. Taben, Perry Manion,
B. S. McCloskey, Jno. Dare,
W. Davison, D. Davison,
W. G. Fry (better F. Burmeister,
known as Rube) J. Powers,
J. Davison, C. Fuller,
W. Cleeland, Chas. Reynolds,
W. Batterton, J. Hall.

KINLOCH TEL. CO.

B. Albaugh, Frank Lewin,
Ed. Holman, Adolph Meyer,
Frank Turner, A. Dock,
Henry Hisserich, Ernest Dennison,

William Stewart.

An asterick (*) before a name indicates that the scab was a member of the union.

OUR LOCALS.

Local Union No. 1.

St. Louis, Mo., May 7, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Ninety-six years ago Thomas Jefferson made a little real estate deal, the hundredth anniversary of which will be celebrated by a World's Fair in St. Louis in 1903. O Tempora! O Mores! Bill McKinley has paid \$5,000,000 more for the privilege of a scrap on the opposite side of the globe than Tom Jefferson paid for more than one-third of the entire United States. No wonder the proposition, fathomed by the Building Trades' Council of St. Louis, to celebrate the centenary of the Louisiana purchase by a World's Fair that will eclipse anything yet held, has aroused an enthusiasm never before dreamed of in the fair business. The citizens of St. Louis have already subscribed \$5,000,000, the greater part of which is made up of small subscriptions. The city of St. Louis will give five million dollars and the state of Missouri five million dollars. Congress will also be asked to make a liberal appropriation. The labor unions of St. Louis have all taken an active part in the preliminary work of the fair, and have subscribed liberally. The members of No. 1 have so far subscribed \$500. The

study of Jefferson, which the World's Fair movement has stimulated, will do much to bring the American people to their senses and counteract the imperialistic craze, which at present threatens to throw the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Monroe Doctrine into the waste basket.

Our business agent reports all members working. Two helpers passed examination last Tuesday and will be admitted to membership at our next meeting. This is a move in the right direction. Last year the union turned down the applications of three aspiring wire-pullers and returned \$75. This had a demoralizing effect on future Edisons, and certainly the union gained nothing by it. When an apprentice or helper has served his time and is competent to do journeyman's work he should be taken into the union, otherwise he will be doing journeyman's work at less than journeyman's wages, and the union will find it hard to stop him.

No. 1 recently had a brush with the Elevator Constructors' union. The elevator men claimed the right to do all work in the hatchway. This No. 1 would not concede, as under our constitution we claim jurisdiction over all electrical work. The matter was referred to the executive board of the Building Trades' Council. The executive board, after hearing both sides, decided every point in favor of the electrical workers. The elevator men claimed that in New York, Chicago, Boston and other large cities they always did this work, and that No. 1 was the first electrical union that ever objected. About a month ago the carpenters claimed the right to put up moulding. We knocked them out in the first round. At the last national convention of carpenters they adopted a resolution claiming moulding work. Some time previous to this we had a setto with the gas fitters about iron armored conduit work, and came out an easy winner. Who next? No. 1 won in these as in a number of other cases because she is one of the strongest and best organized unions in the B. T. C., and has a high wage scale. It has taken No. 1 nine years to reach her present standard. Rome was not built in a day. A union may grow large in membership in a short time, but it takes years to make it a union of veterans, prepared to meet any emergency that may arise. We say this for the benefit of new unions, as the members are apt to get discouraged if they do not accomplish much at the start.

ELECTRON.

Local Union No. 4.

New Orleans, May 4, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

It is with pleasure I write the Brotherhood, but with sadness combined. Local No. 4 mourns the loss of a good and faith-

ful brother, Thos. Averick, who died suddenly from heart disease just as he was returning home from a hard day's work. Poor Tom; he always had a smile and a good word for all. Even in death he still retained the same pleasant smile, as though he still lived. Every member of the local escorted the corpse to the train, where it was sent home to his grief-stricken parents. To them we extend our heartfelt sympathy. The papers gave No. 4 great praise for the good work they have done.

I will drop this sad subject and turn to news of a different nature. To begin with, brothers throughout the country, have you got any reformed drunkards laying around loose in your cities. We had one but am pleased to say we got rid of him. This man has traveled all over the country as a labor agitator. At one time he was recording secretary but resigned his office, and from that day he never showed his face in our hall until we undertook to call him down for misstatements which he was making on the streets about our local. Finally he wanted to square himself by trying to start a picnic for the local, but the boys would not stand it. We preferred charges against him and he was found guilty and dropped from the roll of membership. We also appointed a committee to wait on the superintendent of the People's Telephone to see what he would do in regard to discharging his horse and wagon off of the job, which was done. Now he has a horse and wagon on his hands, such as a backslider of a union man deserves. I think, brothers, there are a few more needs fixing. The first time I get a chance I will write them up in fine shape.

We have had a very busy winter and will continue so for some time. The People's Telephone Co. are doing all kinds of work; this is a new company. The Cumberland has a large amount of work, also the Drainage has started to set poles. The Merchants Electric Light are building new conduits, and a new railroad to West End, the Carrollton Ry., are going to rebuild their entire system with new poles, wire and heavier feeders. The Postal and W. U., in fact everything in the city is head over heels in work, and where they are going to get the men to do the work I can't tell. There were over 400 linemen here this winter and I don't think there are over 35 or 40 to do the work here. Very good chance for \$3 per day and a good local too.

Well, we are hoping to get that thief Andrews, and if we do you will see him with the stripes on his back, handling one of those one-wheel push carts on the levee with a gang of niggers. His office address will be Cell No. 16, Baton Rouge, Louisiana state prison.

We have had a few accidents with live wires, but no one seriously injured.

I will close my letter by giving the boys a pointer, by saying that you must have an up-to-date card or you don't catch on here.

Yours fraternally,
F. D.,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 5.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 9, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

A committee from No. 5 started with our agreement and have made very good progress; there seems to be only a few of the electrical contractors who have not arrived at the point where they can see the use of an agreement, but it means this that the sooner they get in line the better for them, because they will get better prices for their contracts and by hiring good men will have larger profits in the end, and this will eventually drive the small men out of business and stop the journeymen and the helper from taking contracts at prices which have always fostered an inferior class of work, from the fact that they did not know the prices of material or the time required for a given job.

Bro. Hass has charge of the Solomon P. Ruben building remodeling, which will call for considerable time, labor and material.

We have moved to better quarters, at No. 432 Wood St. The rooms are newly fitted with carpet, electric lights, and ice water (that's strong enough). The room is a poem in itself and we give an invitation to all brothers who have not been to meetings for some time, no matter what the reason, to come and inspect same, for we know they will be more than pleased with them.

We are glad to announce Brother Albert Eldridge has almost recovered from a sick spell of eight consecutive weeks and will soon be around among us again.

As our trouble gang has not reported at headquarters I am unable to say very much but I went along the path where they had been and it looked as though there had "suthin' dropped," so we're waiting till they call us up for a clear-line, O. K., signed agreement with all contractors in the city, and there is no doubt of getting the ones who amount to anything, as it is as much to their interest as it is to ours. As I am late with my letter I will not make any more matter to be good for the waste basket.

Yours fraternally,
J. H. STOUFFER,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 7.

Springfield, Mass., May 8, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

The Press Secretary of No. 7 has just woken up, but while he was asleep No. 7 has been very much awake, and has been

adding new lights to its circuit, so that now we have a very good load, all up to candle power. We have had to cast out a few burned out lamps but I suppose all locals have this same trouble.

The electric current, that mighty unseen power, has in the past month claimed another human life in our city, where it deprived Eugene Hastings of his life April 27th. Hastings was a non union wire man, in the employ of the United Electric Light Co., and met his death while making some repairs on a transformer in the basement of Mr. B. C. Surprises' barber shop on State St. Just how he received the fatal shock no one knows, as he was alone at the time and when found was past assistance. This and similar accidents should impress on the people that the occupation of an electrical worker is one of danger, and an occupation for which the wages paid do not compensate for the risk run by the worker. He has no chance to save himself, no chance to reverse his engine and jump, no chance to catch hold of a floating spar. But as from a foe in the dark he is stricken down without a moment's warning, and all this for a small pittance. How can the worker better his lot in life? Very easily if he would only open his eyes. By Unionism, and by Unionism only can he better himself. This means a better class of workmen; it takes an intelligent and capable man to do good, safe work. Nine tenths of our fires are caused from defective electric wiring and many fatal accidents are caused by cheap labor. Because a man can tie up a clothes line or put up a wire fence is no reason that he can put up wires which carry death under their insulation. He can do it, no doubt, after a fashion, but in case of fatal accidents due to imperfect workmanship he should be held for manslaughter. A better class of workmen means a better and safer class of work, for which a fair day's wages should be paid. This is one object of Unionism.

Local No. 47 will hold meetings every two weeks during the summer instead of weekly. Meetings the first and last Wednesday of the month. Last Friday night a large delegation from Local No. 7 availed themselves of the invitation to visit Local No. 37 of Hartford. We left on the 6:33 train for the Nutmeg state and were met at the Hartford station by members of No. 37, and escorted to their hall, where some of the boys met old comrades whom they pulled wires with in years gone by and renewed old acquaintances and formed a great many new ones. No. 37 installed some new lights in its circuit and, at the invitation of President Crowley, the officers of Local No. 7 performed the initiating ceremony. After short speeches by brothers of both Locals we adjourned to partake of a collation served by Local No. 37. The evening was very pleasantly spent with songs, recitations, jig and clog dancing.

All in all we had a most enjoyable time and came away feeling that our Hartford brothers were hale, hearty, fellows, well met.

Bro. Mat Farrell is very anxious to cross bats on the ball field with Local No. 37 and I want to warn No. 37 to look out for Farrell's ball team. Mat is putting his men through a course of training, and in a few weeks will have a strong team. Ralph Sanborn is up early and late practising the curves. He has mastered the raise and drop and when last heard from was wrestling with the inshoot. Joe Stanford will no doubt put on the chest protector and stop what few balls if any go by the batters, and to see President Crowley's little fat friend running bases, and to see Bro. Lynch at the bat, why he admits himself that he couldn't hit a string of sausages with an oar. Now I will have the manager after me if I give away the weak points of his team, so I had better keep quiet till after the first game; then we will have to write it up and give a few half tone pictures of the players. Hoping this communication reaches you in time for this month's publication, I remain

Fraternally yours,
"THE JUDGE,"
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 8.

Toledo, O., April 25, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

As our last press secretary flew the coop I will tell as best I can what is going on in Toledo. We are still on a strike, that is to say, about half of the shops. We have at present four union shops and work is slack now. We have been pretty hungry because the snow has been scarce, but the grass begins to look good, so I think we will have to eat grass till the trouble is settled. You know, boys, that we have had hard luck. You see, the first thing we did was to violate the Constitution by not giving two weeks' notice to the Executive Board, so we get no dough from headquarters. Now, brothers, remember this, when trouble arises, don't get hasty; it don't pay. The boys who were out of work gave a dance the 18th of this month and went in the hole about \$20 or \$30.

One thing I want to call your attention to is the fact that through this trouble every member has been loyal. Not one member has weakened, and it is a case where in one shop it is brother against brother, and in another it is father against son.

The Building Trades Council has finally adopted the card system and is going to make a move this year.

Say, boys, what do you think! our most popular summer resort, namely, the Casino, is on the hog. The general manager of the Toledo Traction, Mr. MacLean, has put a lot of the cheap hayseed street-car conductors to work at the painters' trade down on the Casino. Ain't it a shame?

Well, we still have the consolation that a boycott on amusements in this town works well. We ran a roof-garden out of business, and also a wonderland. So, boys, if you come to Toledo this summer, buy your beer down town and beware of the Lake Erie Park Casino.

Boys, one thing more before I close: Save your money. Did you ever stop to think you may be in a strike some day. I tell you, I am speaking from experience. I did not stop to think, and now regret it.

ED F. MILLER, Sec.

Local Union No. 10.

Indianapolis, Ind., May 4, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Since the last letter was written from No. 10 death has come to claim Bro. Harrison Pike, one of our faithful and beloved members. Bro. Pike was not sick long, but he suffered intensely until death claimed him. We all lament the loss of Bro. Pike. The wife who was true and untiring in her efforts to ward off the cruel hand of death, has lost a true and faithful companion, the company a faithful and efficient foreman, and No. 10 has lost one of her most valuable members, one who was union and true as steel. No. 10 extends to the widow their deepest sympathy and the assurance that in our local she has a friend that will not fail her.

IN MEMORIAM.

Whereas, After a painful illness patiently borne by our beloved Bro. Harrison Pike, his sufferings were suspended by expiration, returning to his Creator whose divine wisdom in removing him from our midst we sincerely acknowledge; and

Whereas, This body loses a valuable member, and his faithful companion a true and generous husband, be it further

Resolved by Local Union No. 10, N. B. E. W. of A., that this body extend to his sorrowing widow its earnest sympathy and condolence, praying that she may find consolation in this, her saddest hour of life, from the inspirations perpetuated by his memory. Cherishing the thought that his noble deeds on earth, his good traits and excellent attainments have fitted him for a more peaceful life in the future world where "crosses" and "troubles," so conspicuously involved in his daily vocation, will be substituted with a life of unbroken happiness and his endless pathway be strewn with flowers immortal. Be it further

Resolved, The charter of this Local Union be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days as a slight token of esteem and respect in which our departed brother was held by its entire membership, and that a copy of these resolutions be officially presented to the widow of the deceased, and caused to be published in the Electri-

cal Worker, the official organ of our noble order.

H. T. SULLIVAN,
C. A. SAYLES,
F. C. FORNSTINE,
Committee.

The electrical business is good, both inside and outside wiremen are in demand. Brothers, if you are out of work or want a change we can place both wiremen and linemen. We could help several of No. 8's members if they were here. It seems that the deal is over and we will try to get a few of the good cards ourselves. We have just secured quite a large contract of inside wiring for a strictly union firm in this city. But our letter and the answer to it will tell the story better than I can. I will give both and show the brothers how we do business:

Indianapolis Brg. Co., City.

Dear Sirs: It having come to our notice that you are about to let a contract for the rewiring of your breweries, we desire to present for your consideration the following electrical firms as being the only firms in the city employing union labor exclusively: The E. C. Hartung Co., room 5 Cyclorama Bldg., E. F. Martin & Co., 140 Georgia St.

Knowing that your firm has heretofore employed union labor exclusively, we hope that you will favor one of the above mentioned firms with your contract.

Very respectfully,

E. C. McCARTHY, R. S.,

Local Union No. 10, N. B. E. W. of A.

Mr. E. C. McCarthy, Sec..

Local Union No. 10,

N. B. E. W. of A., city.

Dear sir: Respecting your favor of the 24th inst. we would say that we will award the contract for the rewiring of the Schmidt Brewery to E. F. Martin & Co., although their bid for the work is somewhat higher than those of their competitors. In asking for bids we stipulated that none but union labor was to be employed, and certainly will insist that this clause be carried out. It is hardly necessary to state that we have always been friends of union labor. The fact is too well known among union men and needs no special advertising.

Yours truly,

INDIANAPOLIS BRG. CO.,

JOHN SCHNEIDER, Supt.

Our circuit is being constantly strengthened by adding new lights. Our \$10 initiation doesn't seem to stop them. Several are waiting to find out what we do to 'em up there. The necessary is already deposited for four more who are expected from Richmond, since Bro. Moss got acquainted last Monday night. We haven't our contract with the Central Union yet, but we are assured that we will get it, and get a good one.

Yes, it happened in this way. Ely and Mack both got married several months ago, and they are now listening to the midnight squall. Yes, both girls. Miss Pike 8 1-2 and Miss McCarthy 8. The boys have our hearty congratulations and best wishes. If you were to see either of the boys when they come to work you could tell that there was a baby in the house. They look sleepy.

No one on the sick list at present. No. 10 is flourishing and hustling, and we may have a few more contracts signed in the near future. Several firms are ready to sign them as soon as they are presented.

Hoping this letter may find a place in our paper, and that we may hear from many others, I am for union forever.

E. E. BAUMAN, R. S.

Greater New York Local No. 12.

Brooklyn, N. Y., May 8, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

When, through the courtesy of this local, it was designated I should assume the duties of press secretary, I acquiesced with pleasure, imagining the honors attached would exceed work involved. This impression has been rudely dispelled by the slings and slurs of criticism aimed (I won't say unjustly) at the incumbent; but when such attacks are made to throttle the power of the press and the attempt to establish a system of censorship, I am compelled to show my total disapproval of an encroachment upon the rights of a free-born American citizen and a National Brotherhood press secretary by announcing unto the Electrical Brotherhood, also unto the world, the glad tidings of the ignominious rout of the Clarendon Hall Filipinos (otherwise known to the electrical fraternity as Scab Union No. 3) by the splendid and systematic methods employed by the brother acting as our counsel and his advisors. The afore-mentioned counsel, who is of a modest and retiring disposition, desired that his name be withheld from publication, so I will only mention that this valued brother has brought us through the crucial test instituted by the F. of L. scathless.

The conquering of such a libelous and unscrupulous gang as controlled the operations of this No. 3, is hailed with pleasure by a number of their old members who have been fully aware of the swindling schemes evolved by those in power, and agree with us that their disruption was a God-send and a great victory for the purity of unionism. The fact of that body being in the hands of a set of scoundrels is one of the causes leading to the existence of Local No. 12 to-day; some who could not endorse the glaring rottenness extant sought purity under our standard and a number of their old members are affiliating with us day after day.

Our grand secretary, Bro. Sherman, paid us another pleasant visit and through his instructive teachings we have gained unity and strength.

A number of the brothers of this local are employees of the Navy Yard and last week they were partly paid for the overtime they were obliged to expend in equipping the vessels for the late unpleasantness with Spain. I used the word "partly" in announcing this fact for this reason, and I think I will be upheld in my controversy, for I contend that this government should pay unto all its craftsmen the same money which is allowed for the same services outside of its departments, which they have not done, for all they allowed was time and a half, while outside of the government's employ double-time is the schedule. Why this government should expect artisans to work for it at a lower figure than is obtainable elsewhere is a mystery to me. That branch of our government which is responsible for what I have asserted should, I think, be gently reminded that it is mainly through the workingman that they hold positions, thus permitting them to dictate to labor their remuneration, and that workingmen are gradually being taught the fact that they are the bone and sinew of this government. The representatives of this government should be the champions for the welfare of the workingman rather than otherwise.

Fraternally,
JOHN DEAN, Jr.,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 17.

Detroit, Mich, May 8, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

In order to have this letter reach Rochester in time for publication I will have to make it short. No. 17 has a record of never having missed a month in over seven years in having a letter in the Worker, to let others know of conditions here, and to cheer them on in their noble work in their own cities, so I hope this letter will reach its destination in time.

I am sorry this communication has to be sent before we know what the outcome will be in the agreement we want signed by the Detroit Tel. Co. We have had one with this company for two years, so we expect that everything will be all lovely to report in next month's journal. We sincerely hope so.

In the strike just settled here with the Bell Telephone Company it was a compromise, both sides yielding a point. The men struck for eight hours a day with the wages to remain the same. The company offered a raise of wages all along the line if the men would work ten hours a day. This proposition was accepted and the strike declared off. Some of the boys had the spring fever and needed that week's rest anyhow. Now, boys, there were two

or three of you had sore spots about the settlement. I hope they have healed.

In connection with the strike I wish to commend the work of the committee in charge of the trouble. They did everything that human ingenuity could devise to get as favorable terms as possible. That was what they were there for, and they did their duty well, ably assisted by Bro. Sherman, who was sent for to aid in bringing about a settlement. Bro. Sherman is a host in himself in such matters, for he has been in the labor movement for years, and is fully competent to tell when the best terms possible under certain conditions have been reached. His quick, clear discernment of a situation makes him a valuable man to have on the scene in time of trouble.

Brothers, now that I am on the subject of strikes I want to say that during a strike is the time you find out who are the true union men and who are the scoundrels. When we sent telegrams to Menominee and other places where the boys were working that the strike was on, it would have done you good to see them come in. Good bless their loyal union hearts, they have made us proud of them.

St. Louis is doing a good thing in publishing a black-list of the measly eurs who scabbed during their strike, and probably we will do the same in next month's Worker, but I will say that the list will be very small. The number can be counted on one hand of those who went square back on the obligations they took. These few had very little principle to begin with, and speedily swallowed that little when the boss asked them to scab it. These same few scabs will probably see this letter and will know precisely who I am alluding to, and will feel sore and revengeful, but I just want to say to them that I don't give two whoops in hades how they feel about it. They will get worse yet later on.

No. 17 is growing steadily and is getting both inside and outside men. We have had but one man sick for quite a while. Bro. Jack Atkinson had a short siege, but is out again. The union men are all working and everything is lovely and the goose hangs high.

Detroit is to have municipal ownership of street cars through the efforts of Gov. Pingree, and organized labor in backing him. Michigan has the best governor that God ever let a state have. He is a true man of the people. If there were more like him in power these United States would be really governed as the founders meant them to be, by the people, and for the people. That is the very essence of what organized labor is fighting for, and will continue to fight for until justice prevails for the workingman; until he receives a larger share of what is produced by his brain and brawn.

In closing I want to say that I have a deathless faith that the arm of organized labor is the arm that will uphold the banner of the free. Unions may have their faults, but they have a hundred virtues to counteract them. I say a true union man is fighting for the best principles known. Greater men than he may have lived and died and been forgotten, but a whiter soul ne'er struggled toward the light; a nobler heart ne'er beat.

The hour is getting late and I will close, hoping that the letter from Detroit next month will contain good news.

DAN E. ELLSWORTH.

Local Union No. 18.

Kansas City, Mo., May 4, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

No. 2, where art thou? I look in vain for your letters. Come now, C. H. A., I know you can write a few lines, so let us hear from you.

So No. 4 had an absconder, Edward Andrews by name. Well we would like to see him strike this town. Maybe we would not put the can't to him, well I guess. Just give us his description, and we will keep our eyes open for him. Brothers, I cannot find words to express myself about a man who would take his fellow workmen's money. He is worse than a scab a thousand times. You would expect anything from a scab, but a man who would go into a union for no other purpose but to rob the members of their hard-earned money is the worst kind of a scamp. Oh that I had the power to put into print just what I think of that kind of beast. I will tell you just what I would like to do with him. I would place him on the rails of an electric road, then cut in the trolley wire, then take a pair of rubber gloves so I could handle the wire and draw the wire across his dirty-looking murg. Oh, I would fix him good and plenty. Hanging would not be in it with me, if I had my way. Now don't think for one moment that I am not humane because I talk this way. A man that would rob his co-workers you could not devise a suitable death for. Well, I have said enough on that subject.

Now about bonding your financial secretary and treasurer. It ought to be done in every local, and, just as Bro. Sherman says, no honest man will object to a bond. He ought to feel proud of his ability to furnish a bond. A man who could not furnish a bond should not accept a position of that kind. I for one would not, nor any other man who had the welfare of his union at heart. So let us see that our officers do their duty.

I see that No. 8 is having some trouble in regard to her wage schedule. We have the same trouble here in K. C. We submitted a wage schedule to the contractors and offered to meet them to discuss it, but

only one offered to meet us, and that one was Mr. J. W. Mason. The other three made excuses one after the other. One of the contractors said that 25c. an hour was enough for any man to live on, but 30c. was too much, and he would be damned if he would pay it. This same man also said that we only had about three men in our local who were worth 25c. an hour. I will tell you how much he knows about electric work. I have been out on some of his jobs, and this is what I found: On a sixteen point annunciator, I found five grounds, two on water pipes, one on a gas pipe, and two on steam pipes. He had his wires in all kinds of ways, crossed, laying loose on pipes, two wires under one staple, and nearly every way you could think of but the right way. This is the man who hires the 15c. men, I spoke about last month. I was very well pleased with Bro. O'Toole's letter in last month's Worker, in regard to Carter H. Harrison, Jr., mayor of Chicago, and Mayor Jones of Toledo, Ohio. Oh, that we had more like those two, at the head of our cities. What a blessing it would be to the downtrodden laboring man! But it is just as C. S. R., of Local No. 65, says in last month's Worker, as long as we let men like Mark Hanna and his kind rule us, we cannot expect to have our just dues. When the laboring man rises up in his might all over this country and goes to the polls with the determination to vote for the men who are the friends of organized labor, then and only then can he get his just dues. Now, brothers, one and all, think over this, and see if I am not right. The country is full of the right kind of men who will stand by the laboring man. Seek them out, just the same as if you were going to look up trouble on your lines. If you will seek diligently you will find the right one, then go and vote for him to the last man.

So No. 27 is back in the Worker again, well that's good. May Misrah keep up his end of the line is my heartfelt wish.

I see that Local No. 35 has some trouble with the Engineers' Union of Boston, in regards to who should run dynamos. I would like to ask the engineers who run dynamos, if a dynamo burns out, do they rewind them, or do they get an electrician? Ninety-nine out of a hundred send for an armature winder, and what is an armature winder, but an electrician. So if they send for an electrician to do that work why hasn't an electrical worker got more right to run a dynamo than they have. We have got a lot of that kind of engineers here in Kansas city. Oh, how they would howl if an electrician would go and take an engine to run. There are lots of us who could do it if we wanted to, and don't you forget it, either. Well, I hope that No. 35 will win out on it, for it is no more than just.

I am going to see if I cannot raise \$10 here for Bro. Wright. Since I have read Uncle Tom's letter I have been ashamed of myself, and I am not afraid to say so either.

Work here at present is very scarce, but we expect it will pick up as soon as warm weather sets in.

Well, good bye, I have a lot more to say, but I am afraid the editor will blow the fuse, so I will have to trip the circuit breaker to save myself, so good bye.

HARVEY BURNETT,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 22.

Omaha, Neb., April 17, 1899.
Editor Electrical Worker:

The following resolutions were adopted by this union on the death of Bro. F. H. Roche:

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom to call from our midst our esteemed Bro. F. H. Roche, a member of our union and worker at our trade, and

Whereas, We mourn the loss of one who, while in life, we held dear as a brother and as a friend, and while we can nevermore grasp his hand and meet his pleasant smile in this life, we can submit to Him who has called our brother's spirit to the life beyond the grave; therefore be it

Resolved, That we extend to the bereaved mother and family our heartfelt sympathy in this their sad and unredeemable loss, and while we can not again meet the loved ones in this life, we can but point them to a Saviour who said, "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am there ye may be also;" and,

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be suitably engrossed and sent to the family of our deceased brother, and that a copy be spread upon our minutes, and a copy sent to our official journal for publication; also that a copy be sent to the daily press in Omaha for publication.

He, our brother, is now at rest,
From pain and sorrow he is free;
And may he be, by the Creator,
Blessed for all eternity.

Fraternally submitted,

W. H. WHEELER,
H. G. RIEPE.

From Old Kaintuck No. 25.

Louisville, Ky., April 25, 1899.
Editor Electrical Worker:

As they appointed me as press secretary, I thought it my place to write a few lines to let the brothers know we are still living, if there are only a few of us.

There is not much work here now. The Buckingham Theater is about ready to be rewired again, and the Wallens Bros. say nobody but union men can work on it. We only have a few such people in Louis-

ville, and we don't forget them when we get a chance to do them a good turn.

I am sorry to say that we lost a good officer in T. C. Wetmore, our treasurer. He resigned and left the city. He has gone to Canada, but, brothers, he left the city as a gentleman. Everything was straight. We are meeting the first and third Thursday in each month now.

We are going to have a smoker next month. I think the boys will smoke up. If any old Louisville members hold membership in other locals, I wish they would write to us, as we like to hear from them if they are union men. I will close this time.

Yours,
JOHN C. DEIBEL,
418 15th St., Louisville, Ky.,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 30.

Cincinnati, O., May 5, 1898.
Editor Electrical Worker:

I will have to wake up, smoke up or blow up, or I won't be able to keep up with the rest of the brothers of Local No. 30, for they are out and working full time. There are one or two candidates riding our goat every meeting. Brothers and readers, I must say this is good work for the hustling brothers of Local No. 30.

It might look unreasonable to some brothers of different locals that Local No. 30 is not larger and don't have more candidates to ride our Mr. William Goat according to the size and population of Cincinnati. We have too many home guards here, and to state further the men that have full swing are home guards. They wouldn't give a journeyman lineman a job for fear he would swing in for first place, and in case it would turn out that way it would mean turn backward toward the old fame. Our straw at present isn't heavy enough to break the camel's back, so the best thing to do is to get the best of the raw material so that we may be able to develop that little straw into one that may some day be large enough to bow it up in the middle, and when they are off their foundation and are grabbing for a hold on the sky-hook then is the time to bring a brand line into play and haul it back out of reach for the medicine they have been giving us.

Work in and around Cincinnati is not very plentiful at present, but we have a fair prospect for the summer. All the brothers are working and enjoying life as far as their means will allow them. Bro. T. Spellisy dropped in on us and attended several of our meetings. Bro. Spellisy has been a faithful worker for Local No. 30 and the order in general. Brothers of Local 30 wish him success wherever he may go.

There were two linemen killed here (I should have said electricians) within the past two months, and as they wouldn't

ride the goat that does the bucking for Local No. 30 it releases all claims from the Brotherhood.

Brothers, what do you think of these grand things that are forming under the laws of New Jersey that are called trusts? I will say and will acknowledge that they are a good thing for those that are in them, but bad for those that are not. Let them go, they will bring the sense of a good many people around all right, and when they find out that the working class will go to the polls and vote for a trust that will be only for the country and will be run by the people of the United States and not by the cut throats and boodlers.

Come again, Uncle Tom.

Visiting brothers are cordially invited. Excuse mistakes for I have just awakened the P. S.

WHISKERSNOMORE.

Local Union No. 37.

April 25th, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

This month I would like to make a few remarks on the subject of trades unions as concerns the electrical workers and incidentally to review what we are and what we are doing and have done. The electrical industry stands to-day as the most prominent of any of the trades, if we may be allowed to call it a trade. At present it seems to me to be more an occupation of chance. It has no defined rules for controlling the supply of electrical workers as the majority of the trades have and is entirely lacking for a definition as to what constitutes an electrical worker. A man gets a job as a helper to wire a building, or a job wiping and oiling machines at a station, and in the course of a year or so the compilers of the city directory come around and he goes on record as an electrician. Yes; that's the name. He does not know much, but if he is willing to work for small pay he is retained in the place where he started and in time is able to answer in some position where a man of skill and learning should be. If he is not satisfied to work any length of time for small wages he leaves that place and goes off through the country working where he can or when the demand is greater than the supply of good men, and in the course of time he becomes a good mechanic. That is what constitutes a greater part of the electrical workers of to-day. Now how long is this going to last? How much longer are we going to wait before we, the persons most interested, are going to define what an electrical worker must be. North, south, east or west you will find evidence of the use of electrical appliances of some description. Many are the comforts and conveniences it offers to us. Many thousands does it furnish with a means of procuring a living in this big country of ours. Every person in the

United States to-day appreciates, to some extent at least, the wonder-working current. At the present time we are in the zenith of the demand for electrical products.

We are delighted with the prospects, but are we going to take advantage of this golden opportunity to advance our craft to the position to which it should be among the trades or are we going to lapse into a kind of comatose state of satisfaction with the condition of things? Now is the time to be up and doing something. Let us educate each other in what to do and how to do it. Let us make rules for ourselves and live up to them. We have the rules but we are not living within their bounds. If each and every brother in the N. B. E. W. would read the constitution he would know that he is not living up to it. Why can't we live up to the laws as laid down by the founders of this Order? They are all right, I'm sure. The trouble is we are born with a spirit of unrest and dissatisfaction with the order of things and, instead of following the simple rules laid down for our guidance, we must persevere go off at a tangent looking for some quicker method for obtaining our desires. As this is the case, I can see no remedy but to use some very forcible argument in our locals to compel the members to live up to the law. Every man knows when he joins a union why he does it. It is to advance his interests, but he looks to someone else to do the advancing, while he stands behind to criticize his leaders. Now the sooner he is educated and weaned from that kind of business the sooner trades unions will be masters of the situation, and it has got to commence now in the ranks of the electrical workers. What are we to-day? Sixty odd locals against a possible six hundred or more. Can those sixty odd locals rise up and in a wee small voice demand better wages, shorter hours and better government? We might demand it, but we would be a good deal like a Newfoundland dog treeing a squirrel. We would be barking up the wrong tree and the general public would fail to understand us.

Let us stop for a moment and consider what the possibilities are in the way of unorganized labor. Let us take one state and look over it and see what there is there in the shape of raw material. Connecticut is not a very large state and will do very well for an example. Let us find out how many cities there are that could support a local of from fifty to seventy-five members. Well, there is New Haven, next Bridgeport, Waterbury, New London, Stamford and Meriden, and perhaps some others. Now say there are on an average five cities in every state in the Union, and there are more I know, how does our sixty odd locals compare with this vast amount of unorganized labor? Now comes the

question, are we doing our best to get these places organized? Are we even doing our best to get all the material in places where we are organized? I don't think so. I don't mean the officers. They as a rule are the men who really take a keen interest in things. This is shown by their being officers, but to every brother I address this, are you doing your best to help out in this work which is to be done in your interest?

You must wake up. Others have been leaders long enough. It is your turn now, so get together and start out with the determination to bring in every man you can come in contact with, and the results will surprise you. The material is at hand, brighten it up with good arguments, good examples and a strict adherence to business and business principles. We are established now on a firm foundation, let us build up a handsome and a lasting structure—one worthy to be called and called truly—the N. B. E. W. of A.

On Wednesday evening, Mar. 15, a number of the members of thirty-seven accepted an invitation from number seven, of Springfield, and, after a lengthy meeting in their hall in the Barnes Block, we adjourned to a hotel, where we found a bounteous repast, which received lots of attention from the visiting brothers, as many of them were compelled to leave home without supper. During the evening we were delightfully entertained with music, songs and recitations, and later in the evening we were escorted to the Central Station and shown everything of interest there. The time was passed very pleasantly and we left on the 2 a. m. train well pleased with our reception by the brothers of No. 7, for which we offer them a hearty vote of thanks and an earnest invitation to pay us a return visit in the near future. While coming down on the train some of the brothers came in contact with a floater who seemed to think trades unions were a thing of the past. The brothers were tired but that fellow got such a sermon on trades unions that he will never forget it and if any of the locals meet a fellow who is overly anxious to become a member they can rest assured it is that same floater.

M. P. SULLIVAN,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 38.

Cleveland, May 4, 1899.

Hello, Neph:

How's things hanging on the fence along down the Genesee? Must be about through corn-planting by this time, I should think. We have the garden sass all planted 'cept the cabbage and turnip plants. Since the frost nipped our plants that cold spring (1899 I think it was) we have been a bit careful about planting so early. I see Dick Ross and Andy Herron t'other night

and they say they planted taters more than a week ago. Geo. Gleason and Cy Gechter have rented Sam Harrises' old sheep pasture and are going to sow the north half to oats (not wild oats) and the balance to cucumbers. Prices seem to be keeping up pretty well. Fred Toye and Al Sheffield sold their hay for \$7.00 a load. Mack Wilson bought it for a circus that's been wintering over on Long street. Harry Bates has sold his shoats to Hovis & Slater; he sold them on foot, catch as catch can. They are going to drive the shoats to Cuba to feed the boys in blue. A. Bunting has traded his old ma pig and six infant pigs for Chris Minches' lop-horned steer and ten gallons of cider. This is about all the news I can think of just now.

This is the time of year when a feller pines for freedom and the country wild flowers, ham and eggs, honey, maple sugar, pancakes, frogs' legs, horse-radish and fish. I tell you, my boy, I long for the farm. I well remember the days I spent on the farm, when, in the flush of my young manhood, I have stood for hours and spit tobacco juice into the pigs' eyes to see them plow their noses into the ground, wipe their faces off with their wrists, and wink for more. I think of the days when I used to hoe corn to earn money to buy a hoe to hoe more corn. Now just imagine the joy and comfort to be had in sitting down beside a loving and affectionate mother cow (I would not advise sitting down beside a cow that had not been a mother), while resting your face in her warm flank as you extract the rich, warm fluid from theudder in fly time, be fauned on the cheek by a long, fringy attachment known to science as a tail. I have told these things to your aunt, but she thinks I know about as much about farming as I do about some other things I might mention. Just because I had a little trouble over at one of our neighbor's she thinks I don't amount to much. I guess I never told you of my fracas over at Mrs. McRafferty's. Well, for fear some one will prevaricate in regard to the matter, I guess I will tell you all about it. Mrs. McRafferty is a widow. She occupies a small villa in the neighborhood of your uncle's brown stone front on the boulevard. Mrs. McRafferty is our friend as well as our neighbor. She is also the owner and possessor of two horned cattle and a daughter with two calves. One of her cattle is a cow; I understand the other is not. Mrs. McRafferty manufactures nice, rich yellow butter, from nice, rich milk. She often calls at our house, does Mrs. McRafferty, to spend a few moments in friendly gossip, and at such times tells us all about her nice, sweet milk, and butter and cream, and buttermilk, etc., all of which makes us feel under deep obligation to our neighbor. Mrs. McRafferty's daughter is perfectly lovely; this also makes me feel under obligation to her

ladyship. Mrs. McRafferty (about thirty summers ago) named her daughter Angelina: a very pretty name, I think. Angelina is a modiste; the sign over her place of business reads thus: "Mademoiselle de Angelina McRafferty, Modiste." Well, a moon or two ago, along in the cold weather, Mrs. McRafferty, the elder, fell off the hay-loft and broke her leg. I can't quite understand how she could break such a leg as it looked to me when I saw it (of course I did stand and look at it two or three hours), as though it would tax an 800 K. W. generator coupled to a 600 H. P. steam engine to do the job; but break it she did, and as a result she was unable to care for her family of cattle, including two calves, which I am informed are the property of mademoiselle, the modiste. Well, one evening, after our evening meal had been put out of sight, and as I sat reading and discussing with your aunt Paul's Epistle to the Romans, who should push the electric button but someone from the outside, and shortly the maid servant brought in the card of mademoiselle the modiste. After an exchange of greetings, mademoiselle informed us that her mamma was sorely disheartened on account of not being able to milk the cows, and as she, mademoiselle, was wholly unused to that kind of business, would your uncle be kind enough to assist her. He could have his choice, hold the critter by the horns, while mademoiselle endeavored to milk, or vice versa. She said she was naturally timid and afraid of cows. I told her I was just the boy that would be only too glad to help her do the job; in fact, I could do it alone and not half try; that she, poor thing, was not to blame for being afraid of cows, and that the cow ought not to be blamed for being afraid of her.

So, after adjusting my necktie and plug hat, we meandered forth. Before proceeding to the cow domicile, mademoiselle said I should go up stairs, see mamma and receive instructions. I did so, and although mamma appeared to be in sore distress, she nevertheless seemed pleased to see me, and while mademoiselle was hunting the milk pails and combing her hair, Mrs. McRafferty gave me a bit of her history. She has a fine lineage, has Mrs. McRafferty. I do not recall the pedigree on the maternal side of the house, but the pater familia's side of it runs something like this: Her father was Mr. Patrick Donahue; he in turn was sired by Michle, he by Thos. Murphy, by John Kavanaugh, by Jim Kelly, by Wm. Farley, by Tim Henicy, by John McDuff, by Dan Galore, by Dick Sheridan, by William Pitt, by St. Patrick, by the Duke of Cork, by Wm. the Conqueror, by Billy the Tough, by Capt. Kidd, by Robinson Crusoe, by Christopher Columbus, by Michle Angelo, by Ferdinand and Isabella, by Ceasar Augustus, by Saul of Tarsus. Now, it's possible that I may have made a

mistake or two, but don't think I am far out of the way.

Mrs. McRafferty felt very much obliged to me for coming over; said I was very kind, and if I only would help her Angelina do the chores, feed the cows and look after Angelina's calves, she would be under great obligations to me. I replied that I would comply with her wishes; not only would I give particular attention to the live stock, but would pay the strictest kind of attention to mademoiselle's calves. This caused mademoiselle to blush and mutter something about an old woman talking too much. But as she is not a person to lay up a grudge when one is trying to assist her, the matter was soon adjusted by Mrs. McRafferty's explaining that the two calves referred to were the children of one of her cows and were the sole property of Mademoiselle de Angelina, the modiste. Having provided for the two calves and the two cows (one of which is no cow at all; don't forget that) I remarked to mademoiselle that the time had come to commence operations, and if she would sit down beside me where I could gaze into her limpid blue orbs of vision, I would proceed to extract the rich white milk from the patient cow. She said she would be pleased to do so, and as she had for some time desired to discuss Browning with me, she thought the present occasion an opportunity not to be lost. I asked her if it made any difference which cow I milked first. She said so far as she was concerned it did not; and as the mahogany-colored beast seemed to take the most interest in me, I concluded she was the one to tackle. So, while mademoiselle sat on a bundle of cornstalks I seized the milk pail and one-legged milking stool. Then assuming an attitude calculated to command the respect of any well-regulated cow, in a clear, loud voice, I commanded her to So. She seemed to So all right, then I gave her orders to hist, and she histed. I don't remember of seeing a cow hist higher. She must have histed away up in G. She histed onto both of my pet corns at once, onto my knees, my breast bone, gave me an upper cut, and lambasted me on the lower half of my spinal column. She bellowed, tore up the straw, caught me around the neck with a swing of her tail, and with her two hind elbows for drumsticks and my righteous abdomen for a drum, she pounded out that good old tune, "We won't go home till morning," and finally, no doubt thinking she had me at a disadvantage, she began to gallop all over me just [the same as if I was somebody's quarter-section or a government reservation. As soon as I could excuse myself I began to look for mademoiselle, whom I found perched upon the hay mow. I asked her if she was much hurt. She said she was uninjured. I asked her if she had turned in the alarm and if the fire de-

partment would soon be here. She said she saw no cause for troubling the fire department. I inquired if any part of the building had fallen down. She replied that the structure remained intact. I then asked her if she would mind taking the curry-comb and removing some of the straw, bran-mash and chewed hay that had collected in my hair during the fracas. She said she would be glad to assist me, and offered me the use of her apron to wipe the perspiration and other refuse from my brow. I also asked her if I had better give the cow a thrashing. She said that in view of what had just happened she thought I had better not. I told her I was not angry, but determined. She said I looked it. "Go," said I, "at once, and say to your mamma for me, that unless she wants another broken leg in the family, or a case of embalmed beef on her hands, she had better come out and settle matters in the cow department at once, leg or no leg. Mademoiselle said she would go if I would promise not to kill the cow while she was away. I assured her that the critter would be safe until she returned. She went, and while she was absent I tried to reason with the cuss of a cow. I frankly told her that I was not easily vanquished in a square fight. I had been very lenient and had put up with a great deal from her on account of her sex; that I could have pulverized her, but did not want to appear rude. I explained to her that I meant no harm, and was willing to apologize if I had in any way insulted her. But before I could do so mademoiselle hove in sight. Then, assuming an air of dignity, I inquired of her ladyship, "What news do you bring from the commanding general?" Then, casting those heaven-lit orbs of vision right down upon the straw-carpeted floor of that cow boudoir, quoth Mademoiselle de Angelina McCafferty, the modiste, while her cheeks crimsoned until they were the color of a little boy's afternoon who has disobeyed his mother, "Mamma says you are to milk the udder cow, because this one is a—er—a—of a different gender."

My nephew, C. S. R., of No. 65, rears himself up on his hind legs and says the old man claims that all our local ills are caused by competition. He begs to differ with me; says we never have had free competition, and then explains what he means by free competition. He wants me to point out one instance in this or any other country where there was free competition. Was it competition, he yells, that bowed the necks of the millions of India beneath the yokes of many masters? Was it competition that robbed them of all but a scant living in years of plenty, and when crops failed they died by the thousands? Was it competition that caused the Irish peasantry, in the 18th century, to go in rags? Was it competition, he howls, that robbed them during this century; that when the

potato crop failed they starved by the thousands? Say, look here, young feller; what do you take me for; a walking encyclopedia, or a Professor of Ancient History? My dear brother, I am bound to confess that I will be hanged if I know. All this happened so long before I graced the earth with my presence that you will have to ask me something easy. I am bound to confess that I have never laid awake o' nights or lost any time days trying to figure out or worrying over troubles that occurred two or three hundred years ago. Life is too short to worry over what happened ages ago. If there must be any worrying done, I propose to bring it right down to date. Therefore I will not undertake to swear positive as to what the trouble was in India, Ireland, China, Japan or the Klondike, but glimpses of the past and shadows of the suffering endured by these poor people occasionally flit across my path, and to-day, as I look back at the condition you represent these people to be in, I conclude the following: That the people of Ireland in the 18th century went in rags because they could not get anything else to wear; that they starved when the potato crop failed because they could get nothing to eat. An Irishman could not live on wind; he must have his potatoes, just as a Deitcher must have his sourkraut. So when the potatoes failed, he failed likewise; and what is true of old Ireland is true of India and Cuba. I look in my dictionary and I find that the word competition, as defined by Webster, means the act of seeking or endeavoring to gain what another is endeavoring to gain at the same time; rivalry and strife for the same object; also strife for superiority. Now, if it is true, as my nephew says it is, that every foot of land in Ireland is owned by landlords, it must follow that the only way for an Irish peasant to obtain the use of the land was by paying rent for the same, and as there more Irish than land, it follows that the landlord is able and does put the rent up to the very highest point that a tenant will pay, or can pay, and live. He does this because he well knows he can get his price, he knows that if John Doe won't pay, Richard Roe will; he knows they will compete, one with the other, for the privilege of working the land. Knowing this, he is able to exact about three-fourths or nine-tenths of what the land will produce, thus leaving the poor Irishman in the hole. If there was more land and less Irishmen there would be less competition; or better still, if the government owned the land there would be less competition, and therefore less rent. So I conclude that competition had more or less to do with the troubles of Ireland; and what is true of the old sod is true of India and Cuba. But as I said in the beginning, I am not worrying over what happened a century or two ago. What's worrying me now, and the man that worries me the most, is the

man who is competing for my job. I don't know who he is, but his name is legion; he stands ready at the shop door, and is waiting and willing to do the same work that I am doing, and for less money. He is competing for my job, he is competing for your job, and I know, and he knows, that the first false step upon my part will give him the job. Then it will be my turn to compete for some one else's job, and at less wages. And so it goes around the world and back again.

Suppose I were to start in business today. The man across the street or around the corner begins to compete with me, and I with him. He begins to sell cheaper than I, to draw custom. Then, in order to get trade, I must undercut him. We must both buy at the very lowest possible price at the wholesale house, and the wholesale people, in order to sell us goods cheap, must buy at the very lowest possible price of the manufacturer, and he in turn must manufacture at the lowest possible cost. And in order to do this he must buy his labor at the lowest price possible; and as labor is willing to compete (because it has to), and is obliged to compete for a chance to work, he, the manufacturer, is able to hire very cheap. This reduction in the price of labor compels the workingman to deprive himself and family of everything but the bare necessities of life. And so, with no money with which to pay, he cannot trade to any great extent, and if he does, I, in order to hold the small amount of trade he is able to give me, must reduce the price of the goods I sell him until there is little or no profit in the business, and the result is, I am soon forced to the wall; and unless I am able to form a trust, I am a dead duck in the world of commerce.

So you see, my boy, that this endless chain of competition is bowing the necks of the many millions in America beneath the yoke of a comparative few masters. Talk about the protective tariff being the cause of all our troubles; why, for what purpose was this law passed, if not to protect the manufacturer from the competition of the cheap labor of Europe? If there was no competition there would be no need of a protective tariff.

There are many unjust laws, I admit. Far more of our laws, as they are now twisted, are unjust than are just; but what are you going to do about it? That's what I am asking you. Are you going to keep on voting in the future, as in the past, in the interest of capital and against labor? Yes, my dear nephew, I repeat now, as I did before, the competitive system now in vogue in this country will (unless it is stopped) put both you and I in the hole sooner or later, and don't you forget it.

In the earlier days of the competitive system nearly all commodities were produced by individuals owning their tools and performing their own labor. With

new mechanical discoveries and appliances the factory system became an established factor and the erstwhile journeyman became either a factory worker or a factory stockholder, according to his means. As this system spread and the demand for commodities increased, the number of factories and distributing agencies correspondingly increased, until a point was reached where there was little profit in any commodity. Then some factories pooled their interest and became corporations; by this means they were enabled to dispense with much waste in production and labor power, and consequently undersell the smaller companies. For preservation, corporations merged themselves into greater corporations, each consolidation enabling them to do away with a great deal of surplus labor and concentrate their mechanical forces more compactly and increase their profits in various ways without increasing the cost of commodities manufactured. But the great profits of these corporations invited a field for investment, and consequently competitive corporations rose up, and then the process of extermination or absorption began again, resulting in the organization of the trusts. We find that in itself the trust form secured a maximum product with a minimum expenditure of energy through the subdivision and compact organization of labor. In that particular alone the trust form of production is beneficial. In that particular also the trust is a development of production, not an incident; and if you were to smash the trusts, admitting that you could smash them, you would have in a few years the same development repeated. You don't want to smash the trust. You want to keep it intact and make it a medium of production for use, instead of profit—operated by all the people. In this way the trust, like that other instrument of misery to the workingman, the machine, would be a blessing. Let the people own all means of production, distribution and transportation; substitute co-operation for competition; give us the direct ballot; return the land to its rightful heritage; and then, Bro. C. S. R., you and I can go fishing without fear of losing our jobs.

Say, Harvey of 18, don't you suppose I know the size of my nephews? Why, my boy, I can tell you the length, breadth, height and weight, shape and looks of all the boys. No, we have no 15-cent experts in Cleveland just now. Sometimes we have them in the fall and winter, but every spring we round them up and take them down to the lake and put them under the ice. Then along in July, when off Edgewood Park, some fair bather gets the trait of her bathing-skirt caught on the collar-button of the aforesaid 15-center, and hauls him upon the beach, the coroner calls around, sits on him and pronounces him a scab too scabby to recognize.

I am in receipt of the prospectus for the "Practical Electrician." I understand Bro. Breese, whose address is 260 Connecticut street, Buffalo, has charge of the magazine and its management. It will be issued monthly, and in view of the Pan-American Exposition to be held in Buffalo, I am persuaded it will be well worth the reading, and would advise the boys to take a peep at it.

The boys of No. 38 held another smoker on the 19th; lots of fun and 16 applications is the result. By the way, we have a mandolin club, about the best in the city. It is known as "Uncle Tom's Mandolin Club," and your uncle feels quite large when he thinks that the crack music club of the city bears his name. I also wish to make mention of the fact that we have a member whom we are willing to back in a boxing match with any one, not barring Fitz Simmons. If there is any man in the Brotherhood who wants his nose lengthened out, shortened up, or spread all over his face; if he wants the color of his eyes changed from blue to black, or vice versa; if he wants his anatomy changed from a biped to a quadruped, let him address Mr. Thos. Warren, care of your Uncle Tom. Another thing I would like to state right here and now, and that is, if that individual who signs himself "Ann Archist," from Cleveland, will come out into the open and make himself known, me and Tom Warren will give his family an opportunity to hang crape on the door, and his friends a chance to buy flowers.

The weather has been so hot up here for a few days that one of our neighbor's daughter's got son struck. While out in the woods gathering wild flowers I found a large number of grasshoppers and frogs that had been baked alive, the heat was so great. A person having a few crackers in his pocket could have made a very fair lunch. A farmer whom I met in the woods told me it had been so hot over where he lived that a number of his hens had laid hard boiled eggs, and that the steam generated in his well until it blew a chain pump between 134 and 135 feet up into the air. As I was returning home I met a clergyman who had been down in the country holding service in a school house. He said while he was preaching it became so hot that several of the brothers and some of the sisters—but shaw, what's the use of me telling you what happened. None of you will believe me, and in an unguarded moment some one will call me a liar; and as I am not accountable for what happens when a man says that, I guess I better quit.

From your

UNCLE TOM.

P. S.—I do not believe I had better say anything about your stopping off here while on your way home from Detroit. I don't think I had better say a word about your leading the old man away from his indus-

trial pursuits to the more warlike scenes in the ball park, where we both became so excited that we tried to carry off the diamond. I won't tell how I took you down to the boat and put you to bed and left you to awake in Buffalo; how a delegation from No. 38 called to see you and waited for you to come aboard until 3½ seconds before the boat pulled out, and all the while you were in your stateroom in bed snoring harder and louder than the engine in the hold of the ship. No, the less there is said about some things, the better.

Your UNCLE TOM.

Local Union No. 40.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

No. 40 is enjoying an era of prosperity that none of our old working members ever anticipated. All the old members are coming back and we are taking in new ones in batches of two and three. Ex-Bro. Sam Smith came up and squared himself last Thursday night, and we are expecting several others to do so at once.

The trimmers of the City Elec. Light plant get an advance of \$5 per month, making \$60, which well repays them for the terrible winter they have just gone through. They are under many obligations to the city electrician, Mr. Walter C. Stewart, and only hope they will some day have an opportunity to repay him for the many favors extended. I understand several of the inside men are to get an advance also. I hear to-day that one of the other companies is to raise their men to \$60.

Owing to our increasing business No. 40 has been obliged to appoint an assistant press secretary.

The Central Labor Council of the American Federation of Labor of St. Joseph, of which No. 40 is a member, has attempted to start a paper of its own. Bro. Motter will probably be one of its editors. We now have 1,000 subscriptions to start with, and can see nothing but success ahead of us.

The Central Labor Council held an open meeting last Friday night, which was well attended, and we hope did some good. We had good union music, nice singing and some very good speeches, and especially from Bro. Motter.

We are looking for a new hall and hope to get located in the new Odd Fellows' building, which is the finest building for meetings in the state.

Two new companies are here trying to get franchises. The Railway Co. also asks for a new line to the northeast part of town. Hope they will get them.

Our soldier boys have all returned and gone to work, Bro. Dunn at his old place with the Railway Co. Earl Stewart is with the Citizens' Tel. Co. Ex-Bro. Jimmie Cain is still soldiering (?), but he has

lost his stripes. He did not wear them where the other brothers did.

In the last Worker Bro. Motter roasted several of the boys for not attending meetings. I think it a good thing and am going to follow it up. If the brothers don't like it let them come to lodge and elect some one else.

Bros. Bastian and Dorsel, our two secretaries, are absent of late a great deal and with very poor excuses, yet they can attend other lodges regularly. I suppose we will have to move to their homes so we can get our books, papers, seals, etc.

Bro. Melvin is probably excusable. The other day I saw a piece of paper drop from his pocket, and on picking it up it read: "The wife who can persuade her husband that a necktie does not become him can do anything with him." As Bro. Melvin does not wear a necktie I suppose that is his excuse. At the last meeting of our union a resolution was passed authorizing me to write the following ex-brothers up in the Worker: Some time ago the Railway Co. missed a great deal of copper. They went to the pawn shops, where they found several hundred pounds of from No. 10 to 20. A little investigation followed, and ex-Bros. Arch Holman and Jake M. Slaybaugh, with a hobo named Harry Crouse, were arrested and pleaded guilty, getting four months in jail. Since then the company find they have been robbed of more than they first thought, and the boys may find other charges awaiting them when they get out. This man Holman is from St. Louis and was a member of our order there, but refused to join No. 40, probably because he could get work here without joining. Right here is a question that I have had asked me more than once: "Why is it that a union foreman will keep such men as those when there are good union men walking the streets doing nothing?" The trouble with Slaybaugh is that he thinks more of booze than he does of unions. This wire was taken down in the day time and Holman was the foreman. Some of his men refused to assist him, and it is well they did. It should be a lesson to the companies to remove the dead loops, but what we need is an electric inspector and a law governing overhead wire and compelling companies to take down dead wires. Some day our people will realize the position they are in, and then there will be a change.

Hoping you will excuse this long letter,
I remain,

W. T. WISE,
Asst. Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 41.

Buffalo, May 9, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

I will ask the Brothers throughout this section of this country to please steer clear of Buffalo at present—members of Local

41 are out on a strike for \$3.00 per day and 9 hours. Things at the present time are looking quite favorable for a winner, in this way: I do not believe the contractors of this city will be able to get good men enough to carry on their work at the small wages which they offer, \$2.25 per day. The cry seems to be that if they make the rate of wages \$3.00 per day they are compelled to pay what they call poor men and the bonus the same rate. Local 41 does not agree with them, for we believe we have strictly first class men enough in Buffalo to do all the work they can get, and if we have not first class men enough, we believe the N. B. E. W. can furnish them all they want if they will pay the wages.

We had a call from our G. S. last week and he made a few very appropriate remarks for the occasion. If the members of our local will be sure they have no cracked wooden legs under them, or anything in the way of legs that are weak, and remember the advice of the G. S., I can see the finish of the contractors on Pan-American can work.

Just a word to the Brothers within a hundred miles of Buffalo. Don't let anyone misinform you regarding the great amount of work being done on the Pan-American Exposition grounds. There are no such grounds; the sight has not been selected yet, and if the controversy keeps up, there won't be any place selected this year. Just as soon as things get into any kind of shape I shall endeavor to inform Brothers how much work there is and what they pay.

Hurrah for Detroit! Local 17 seems to be made up of the proper material. Hope to see a report of their success in this May issue.

I wonder where the Press secretary of Local 44 has gone. Come Harvey, get a move on. Don't let all the rest of the Brotherhood get ahead of you. You ought to be tickled to death to think you fellows are drawing so much money. I guess the \$2.25 went quite as easy as though it had been \$2.00.

You can kindly thank Brother Frank McFarlane for his efforts to bring about the raise.

There are numerous things I could write about to-night, as I have in mind all the boys, Uncle Tom, H. Adams, Theo. Gould, P. H. Wissinger, Forbes, McElroy, Ecoff, and a host of others, but I have been moving my place of residence, and you know what that means: if you don't why ask Tom Wheeler of 38.

Fraternally yours,
WM. A. BREESE,
Press Sec.

Local Union No. 44.

Rochester, N. Y., May 9, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

I think you have not heard from me in two months, but everything in Rochester

is going along fine. The inside wiremen of 44 have just finished having an agreement signed with the contractors. The questions have been discussed in pretty warm terms for the last five or six weeks in regard to trade rules and wage scale, and up to the present writing everything has been settled to the satisfaction of both parties, and we sincerely hope will remain so for some time.

During the past month we have lost one of our members, Brother John Madden, who died at St. Mary's Hospital on April 11th. He had been ill for some time, but had only been at the hospital a few days. He was given every possible attention but passed away on the date mentioned. His remains were taken to Canada for interment by his brother.

Yours truly,

H. N. S.

Local Union No. 45.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 2, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

I again appear with a few remarks to inform the Journal of the welfare of No. 45, and it is with pleasure I state that the boys heartily greet the dawn of spring, which in our locality was rather late; and they now cast off their Klondike coats and heavy mittens, and in their shirt sleeves scale the lofty poles, and with light hearts listen with pleasure to the shrill notes of robin red breast, which sounds more distinctly to the ear from the top of a sixty-five than in the bustling street below. The humming of the frost-contracted wires has ceased and the trees are beginning to array in summer apparel. Of course, it will be a little more difficult to sight our wires through the foliage of those lofty trees, whose only ambition seems to be to keep their heads above the wires, but we will forego all that in preference to cold fingers and the biting blasts of winter. But, as I intended to confine myself to a few remarks regarding the way No. 45 transacts business, I will commence at once for fear of presuming too much upon your valuable space.

Now the most important feature of all movements is the selection of good officers, or leaders, because without such any cause, no matter how good, is liable to fall by the wayside. And with a selection such as No. 45 has made our cause is sure to spread, just as sure as the light of day spreads before the advancing sun. So, therefore, as Press Secretary, I feel obliged to confer a compliment upon our president for his strict attention to business. The able, diplomatic and statesmanlike manner in which President Devlin conducts affairs is truly wonderful, and his rulings on many technical questions will, I believe, be handed down to posterity and quoted as authority by future generations of the Brotherhood. Moreover it is very pleasant

to listen to our learned president address the house on any important question. The walls of no hall of congress ever echoed a clearer or more oratorical voice than that of President Devlin, and he punctuates his remarks with light and witty episodes, which, however, give way when the hot flowing tide of sweeping eloquence swings along in irresistible flow. It must be borne in mind that our worthy president's time is not consumed in addressing the empty chairs or a few sleepy members. But, on the other hand, he is speaking to an intelligent assembly of parliamentarians, who are at all times ready to detect flaws or errors in his rulings. But his sound and logical judgment prevents him from coming in conflict even with the most learned members. I could comment upon the able abilities of our whole staff of officers in like manner, but lest I should overstep the bounds of propriety I will conclude, as I have yet the sad announcement to make that the grim angel of death has wielded the sceptre with remorseless hand among our brothers, and has taken from our midst our beloved brother, Perry Johnston, who, after a short illness, passed away on the 13th of April. I am glad to say that Local 45, after contributing largely to the floral decorations, turned out almost in full force and escorted the remains to their last resting place.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,
J. J. CASEY.

Local Union No. 46.

Lowell, Mass., May 5th, 1899.
Editor Electrical Worker:

As No. 46 has not been heard from for some time I will try and let the boys know what we are doing. Work has got somewhat plenty the last few weeks. Every one in town is working at present. Our inspector of wires took his office May first and we expect to see him make lots of changes before long. The same day all the bar-rooms closed and everybody is singing "How dry I am." This is because Lowell voted no license last fall. February 1st the Lowell Electric Light Co. changed hands to Boston parties; the head of the firm now is Stone S. Webster. It is also said that this company owns several plants, including the following places: New Orleans, La., Atlanta, Ga., and Seattle, Wash. On March 1st our new manager came and from the proceedings to date it looks as though the electric plant here will put in a system before long. Five years ago Lowell had the best plant in this state, but bad management and the many new devices of electricity has reduced it. Many members of No. 46 are also in favor of making the Brotherhood International. Bro. Harding has taken over the business of our present inspector of wires. This goes to show that we have none but good men in our Local and no card, no work, is

the motto of Bro. Harding. Since our last letter Bro. P. Redden got a bad fall. He was on top of a stagecoach on a snow plow which the Lowell and Nashua Street R. R. were using for a tower wagon. The tower caught the stagecoach and pulled it off, throwing Bro. Redden, who struck on his back in the cupola. It will be a long time before he will string wires again, although he is able to be out with the aid of a cane. It was the same old story with Bro. Redden. He happened to be in arrears at the time. I will close for this time, hoping to hear from many Locals this month.

MEMBER No. 46.

Local Union No. 46.

Lowell Mass., May 8, 1899
Editor Electrical Worker:

Well, No. 46 has missed fire a couple of times now, so I am going to send a contribution to the Worker myself this month, with the double purpose of giving you to understand that we are not all dead (drunk) nor sleeping, and of having the satisfaction of seeing myself in print, which same object is (next to having our picture printed in our local papers), the greatest ambition of all young Americans. I wonder why we haven't heard anything from our new P. S. (this don't mean post script") because he is too long for that, in fact he is a whole column. They say that the reason he don't write is because he can't get the right kind of ink, now that Lowell is a no license town; he always uses two kinds of it, one kind to dip his pen in and the other kind liable to dip him in the pen-in-tentiary. Now this is not meant for a libel on him as all the boys here will know, for he is (I believe), some relation to Francis Murphy, the temperance lecturer. But all joking aside, I don't see why he can't write as he is all "right" every other way, but I suppose it is his affliction to be so quiet, no one ever hears a word out of him.

I hope the Grand Secretary will instruct all Electrical Workers to keep away from Lowell this summer, as it is a poor place for the average "Pole Sticker," "Trimmer," or "Inside Man," because you can't get a thing boys, not a thing, everything is closed up tighter than a drum. There is nothing left for us to do except drink one per cent. or go to Lawrence for our "thirst quencher," and if any of you were ever in Lawrence you know what that means. Say! boys, on the dead (man), that town is the last place on the map.

Now Bro. G. S., I think you ought to get after the boys in this paper every month, about attending meetings, paying dues, getting in new members, etc. Tell "Uncle Tom" to give them a good red hot letter. His last one in behalf of old Crip was a dandy and if it is possible for No. 46 to do anything, she is going to do it, and that goes too, see!

As to general news I don't think there is any in Lowell worth telling, only that the Electric Light Co. has moved into their new office, and it is all right, with the front illuminated with arc and incandescent lamps until midnight.

Say! I most forgot, one of our members is in charge of one of the largest shops in the city, and his head hasn't swelled a mite, like some "others" I could mention, and our boy hasn't gone back on the union either. He is paying union wages and hiring union help too. So when you meet him, boys, grip his hand in the good old way and tell him how you appreciate his stand in the matter.

I must not take up too much space, but I want to speak of just one more matter, and that is why is the G. S. so stingy with the copies of the Worker? we never get half enough to go round. Maybe it is the rule to send only as many as there are members in good standing, as shown by the per capita tax returns, but although that looks right, yet how about those members who are a month or two in arrears, owing to unavoidable circumstances? but who are as good as gold when money is coming in right. Are they never to have a paper?

Brace up G. S. and send us enough and leave it to our secretary to decide who is to go without in our own Local union as undeserving.

4-11-44.

Local Union No. 49.

Chicago, Ill., May 5, 1899.
Editor Electric Worker:

Few avocations present a duty more dangerous and hazardous than the position of an electric arc light trimmer. In this position one must work in rain and sunshine, in the most bitter cold and in the most extreme heat. You are compelled to climb poles 60 feet high on the top of which is the arc lamp. While working there is likelihood of one coming in contact with a current from the battery and if not expecting it, a sudden shock strikes you which causes you to loosen your hold, your muscles contract and you fall to the ground. The trolley pole is more dangerous than any other arc light support, and during a heavy storm we are often compelled to miss a pole which supports more than one working conductor. The great trouble in this case is that the insulation on the span wires is defective and the current escapes through flaws. From the working conductor to the trolley poles is a dangerous 'storm center.' When a trimmer patrols his circuit and discovers a lamp not burning, he must put it in order when five thousand or more volts are on, and if by mishap he receives a large flow of the current he gets an easy introduction into the next world.

Contracts have been let for 50 miles of

wire to be placed underground and to erect 500 arc lamps on the north side of our city.

Members of Local No. 49 are taking an active interest in the matters referred to by Uncle Tom's letter. Bro. Wright has our heartfelt sympathy and we are preparing financially to show it. Bro. Conley left for New Orleans on a sad mission to attend the funeral of a relative. He has our deepest sympathy in his bereavement.

HENRY W. MARTIN,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 52.

Newark, N. J., May 6, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker :

Well, brothers, No. 52 is progressing at present as it has in the past, splendidly. Our membership consists at present of about one hundred and eighty-five members, and more applications are coming in. We are getting a line on the wiremen and they are coming as fast as can be expected. No. 3, of New York, (not Nat'l Brotherhood men) protested against our delegates being seated by the Building Trades Council, but the council did not believe in letting No. 3 of New York city come to Jersey and try to hold it down the same as they are trying to do in the city of New York at the present time, and charge such an enormous initiation fee, which is within the means of but a few men in our line of business. We hope in the near future to see No. 3 affiliated with the National Brotherhood, where in justice to all they should be.

We have had a little trouble on our hands since the beginning of April. The men employed by the North Jersey Traction Co., formerly the Consolidated Traction Company, went out on strike on account of a severe cut in their wages. The men were out about a week, when a settlement satisfactory to both sides was agreed upon, the men all getting an increase of twenty-five cents per day, and no piece work. All of the men are members of our local, but am sorry to state one of our brothers went to work and, with the aid of his brother, scabbed the job. His name is Jack Campbell (union man) and his brother is Bill Campbell, otherwise known as saphead, the scab.

The settlement was made through the efforts of a committee consisting of delegates from the Building Trades, Essex Trades, and members of local employed by the company.

Well, one trouble never comes alone. We decided to hold a special meeting and send a committee to the Crocker-Wheeler Co., as they had made a similar cut on their employees in the winding room some months ago. The cut was so severe in some cases a man could not get his regular wages at the end of the week.

The morning after the meeting, when the employees went to the shop to work a

notice was on the front door stating work in the winding rooms had been suspended till further notice; in other words there was a lockout. The reason the officials gave for said action was they had heard from some person not fit to live on the face of the earth that the winders were going to strike the next morning. A committee from the shop and the councils waited on the officials of the firm and contradicted the report of the person and furthermore, were willing to produce the minutes of the meeting to prove that such was not true and the person who gave them the information was a confounded liar and a pest or plague to mankind. The winders and helpers were out six days, when a settlement was made satisfactory to both sides, the firm agreeing to pay first-class winders the minimum rate of twenty cents per hour and helpers fifteen cents per hour.

With best wishes to all brothers.

Fraternally yours,
W. J. L.,
Press Sec.

Local Union No. 56.

Erie, Pa., May, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker :

A few words from 56 will help you a little about filling up the Worker, so I will send you my words by freight, as my learning does not allow me to express myself.

Everything is going on very quiet in Erie at present, and all brothers are working, and there are some companies looking for men and they are willing to pay two dollars for ten hours' work.

No. 56 gave a ball and an electrical display on May 1st, and it was the whole thing; but No. 56 does not wish to claim all the credit and honors, as it was through the brothers of No. 38, of Cleveland, O., that we got the most of the necessary equipments, and we had a committee of three to decorate the hall which could not be beat, viz.: Bros. Pudenz, Disbrow and Eighmy. Bro. Eighmy left his work and went to Cleveland at his own expense to procure the necessary lamps and other articles which we could not have gotten up in our small local, and which the brothers of 38 were ready to lend and help us to get. Bro. Eighmy says if you want to have a good time and meet some good brothers, just go to Cleveland and call on your Uncle Tom, and he will tell you where all the good brothers are.

Oh, yes, I was telling you about our dance. It wasn't quite the whole thing, as the storm kept the crowd away; so we are keeping our electrical display all up in the hall for May 8, and we expect all this town and part of Swantown to be there.

That's all for speed, so I will send a clipping from the Erie morning paper, which tells all about the grand ball.

Fraternally yours,
J. E. C.

MUSIC BY WIRE WAS THE NOVEL FEATURE OF THE ELECTRICAL WORKERS' BALL.

Local No. 56, National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America, entertained about two hundred friends and invited guests at a grand ball and reception at Maennerchor Hall last night. The party was one of the best given in Erie during the season, and was especially enjoyable on account of its many novel features. Of course, it is to be expected that electricians will spring some new wonder of their art on such an occasion, but last night's expectations were surpassed. The hall was brilliantly illuminated from above by strings of many-colored electric lights. Over the stage blazed a great American flag made of colored lights, while on the face of the balcony at the opposite end of the hall appeared the letters "N. B. E. W." also in colored lights. But perhaps the most unique feature of the evening was the "music by wire." In the balcony was placed a large contrivance (such as only electricians understand) which reproduced as clearly, distinctly and with as much volume as the "real thing," the very best music of Koehler's full orchestra, which was playing away for dear life in the Metropolitan Hotel across the street. The apparatus was furnished by the Mutual Telephone Co. And to this unusual music the merry dancers kept time under the rays of a calcium light, also operated from the balcony, which with its brilliant colorings and magnificent effects produced a scene of beauty rarely if ever witnessed even in a modern ball room.

As an electrical display the affair compared very favorably with nature's own handiwork as shown in the flashing lightnings of last night's storm. The committees were as follows: Arrangements—L. Carson, P. Jacobs, A. Hicks, J. Mulhern, J. C. St. Clair. Floor Committee—J. W. Disbrow, H. N. Pudenz, J. P. Hanlon, C. A. Eighmy, F. Carver.

Local Union No. 66.

Houston, Tex., May 5, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

No. 66 has got a kick coming. Not a member received the Worker last month. What was the trouble?

We had a fire in Union Labor Hall the first of April, and No. 66 lost everything they had in the hall except our seal; about \$75 worth. We are getting along well just the same. Plenty of work and new members coming in all the time. I tell you, we are beginning to show all linemen the benefits of joining the union. The Light Company got baulky last month and said they would not pay as much wages as the rest of the companies were paying, but the union took the matter up and soon brought them to terms.

Bro. J. M. Stevens has returned to Hous-

ton as assistant circuit manager for the Telephone Company. We are all glad for two reasons; glad to see him promoted and glad to have him back in town, for he is one of our best union men. Here's good luck to you, old boy.

There are some workmen here eating at scab restaurants and Chinese restaurants and patronizing other scab concerns. Shame on you, boys, do you expect to reap all the benefits of unionism and give nothing in return? Oh, by the way, isn't it about time you inside men wake up and make a few connections. Your circuit will be entirely out of order pretty soon and you will be in the dark. Just note the bright halo around the outside men, especially about pay day, and go thou and do likewise. If we would only all act together we could just as well have a just share of the wealth we create as to be toiling for the pittance that a part of our trade is forcing the corporations and contractors to pay to the other part, who set back and enjoy what we do for them, and refuse to do anything for themselves or to help us to do for them. And such things are called men.

R. R. TRIPP,
Press Sec.

Local Union No. 67.

Quincy, Ill., May 5, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

As we have not had a letter in the Worker for a couple of months I will try to have a few lines this time.

Very near all of the linemen are busy, as the Telephone Co. and Electric Light Co. are rebuilding their lines, and there will be work here all summer for them. The majority of the inside wiremen are idle and have not much prospect of any work this summer.

Everything is going smoothly here and we expect to get some of the old men back into the union at our next meeting.

Yours respectfully,
J. M. R.,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 68.

Denver, Col., Apr. 24, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

As the will of Almighty God has removed Bro. Joe Griffen from our midst, be it resolved, That we, as members of Local 68, N. B. E. W., of Denver, do hereby extend our heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and friends, in having lost a true and loving brother. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon our minutes and also published in the official organ of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Local 68, N. B. E. W., of Denver,
F. A. WARNER,
Rec. Sec.

Local Union No. 72.

Flatonia, Tex., May 7, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Dear brothers, I am pretty late this month, but will try to get in a few lines. Our local is progressing fine. We have taken in about a dozen members in the last month and have about that many more to come in. There were so many coming in and so much business that we had to change our meeting nights to every Saturday night. I think we will have a better attendance in the future. We added a sick benefit fund to our local last meeting, we thought maybe it would have some effect on the attendance.

At the last regular meeting Nick Buhler was expelled from our local. The charges against him were appropriating one of the boy's tools and another one's coat and vest. He came to Waco in February on the hog. I put him to work and paid him full time, although he was sick a great deal. He then went to the Springs, and the boys held him up. As soon as he came back he commenced to borrow money from the boys, any amount he could get, and finally wound up by jumping the town and his board bill. Now, if any of the brothers know anything of him and can give him a boost with your foot, I would be glad to hear that you did, for that is the kind we don't want. There are also two others you want to look out for, one is a man named Flemming from No. 66; he borrowed a kit of tools, worked a week and skipped out. The other is Sam Flores, of 72, but now in Dallas. He was suspended some months back for appropriating funds of the local amounting to \$6. So, 69, look out for him.

Everything is lovely in this country now. The Telephone Company is paying \$2.25 for linemen all over the state, and there is plenty of work for all good men. The S. W. and the Independent Telephone base ball teams had a match game last Sunday. The S. W.'s were too many for the Independents. Score, 15 to 10.

I will have to say good bye to the boys, as the company has transferred me from Waco to Flatonia, but I want to see something from 72 every month.

E. P. McBROOM.

(Crowded out of April issue.)

Our Social Status.

St. Louis, March 30, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

March edition is evidence we are interested in the social question, and that our vision extends further than merely making better terms with our bosses. I heartily agree, all press secretaries should give space in their letters to this question. If they have no convictions on it, it is high time they take some interest. I do not understand how they can be indifferent, or

think any other matter more important. We are degenerate sons of those who fought to give us political liberty if we enslave ourselves while we have the power of ballot to correct social injustice.

I have a conviction on this question, and though it was of slow growth, it is possible I am at error; if so, I want to be set right. The way to do that is to show me where my reasoning is at fault. All thinking persons agree something is badly out of joint, and civilization of this kind is a failure for those who produce the wealth.

There is a right order, or natural law, for man in this civilized state, and until we discover and conform to it, our effort to right present inequalities will avail us nothing. All of our craft have a common understanding of the law of a metallic circuit, and agree, if it is open, the only correction is to close it. We might pass resolutions and make laws that a larger gauge conductor was necessary, or a stronger battery was needed, but in so doing we have not remedied the trouble; we must conform to the natural law by closing the circuit. We know this by every-day experience. But we must almost entirely depend on reasoning to know what is the natural order of man in a civilized state, as with but two exceptions (New Zealand and New South Wales) it is ignored in the principles of government, and they have but partially conformed to it. But with results that substantiate those who advocate it, we will agree when we recognize this natural order as we do the law of physics.

Abstractly we say all have an equal right to the use of the earth, and labor expended upon it gives title to the product; but our system of government denies this right, its denial is in giving sanction to so-called property rights that will not bear the same logic of ownership. The landlord's gain is the laborer's loss. To illustrate:

The city of D— is situate on a large lake, and in winter its inhabitants cut ice on it and store for summer use. No one owns the lake, and the ice they cut is all theirs. In the same latitude is the inland city of L—. There are a few small lakes in the vicinity, but are owned by two of its citizens. The ice freezes in the same manner as in the big lake by D—, but as the people there recognize the right of ownership in lakes, they must get permission to cut ice from them. The permission is given on the terms—for every three cakes cut, one shall be given to the owner; and as all are treated on the same terms, and the people have become accustomed to giving some of the ice they cut ever since L— was a small town, they do not feel an injustice. Of course they will get up earlier and work harder, as the city grows, as there will be a greater demand for ice, for then they will share even with the lakelord and have four cakes to cut instead

of three; ice will be scarce and out of reach of the poor, a great many will suffer and die for the want of it, all because there was no more ice? No; there was plenty uncut. Why then this scarcity, this ice famine? D— has not had an ice famine since the winter was too warm to freeze it.

Some will say the poor of L— were too lazy; others, that they were intemperate; while they themselves would attribute their lack of ability to satisfy their ice wants to capitalism—as they do not recognize the difference between the ownership of things produced by labor (tools to take it out and buildings to store it in) and a natural element (the lake). But why L— is poor in ice when nature furnishes abundance is like ourselves; they secure to some ownership in a natural element—that is, a right to exact a price for something that was created for all.

It requires no imaginative power to apply the above illustration to our industrial problem. The earth is the source of all wealth, as those lakes at L— are the source of all the ice; and the same cause will produce like effect in either case.

Now, all can not use land in common in the same way as sunshine and air, as there is a great difference in advantage—value of location; and all can not occupy the same place. But we can secure to each human equal rights, tho' they occupy or own locations of different value—as naught is to a million, and that is, for each to pay annually into a common treasure the value of their location. There can be no injustice in this. If all have an equal right to life—equal right to life is not possible on any other basis.

The industrial world has an open circuit; let us close it, then repair the minor trouble.

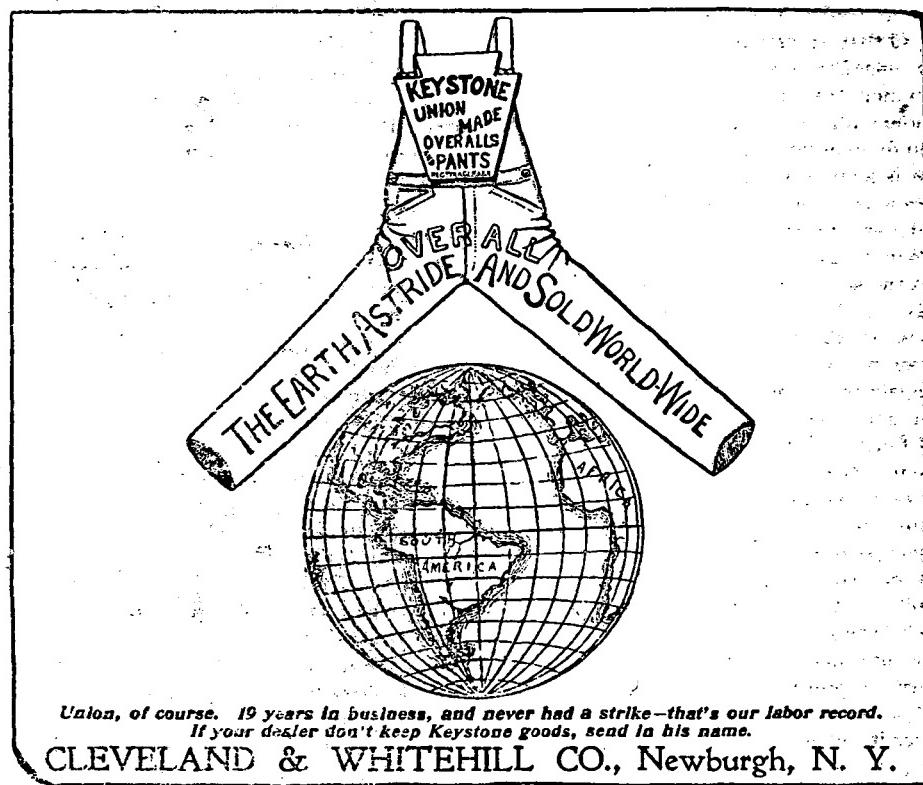
Yours for justice and real prosperity,
E. H. BOECK.

FIRE CAUSED BY ELECTRICITY.

There is a deal of interest just now in every city and large town where electricity is utilized to any great extent for light and power, in the matter of fires caused by defective workmanship. At no time has the subject so fully occupied the minds of fire insurance underwriters, and it is being brought home pretty closely to the men who pay the premiums.

In the earlier stages of the art too little attention was paid to dangers which are now known to be imminent. In the hurry of installing plants a good many important things were either unknown, or if known, were ignored.

Most of us remember the crude and inefficient wire insulation which "went" in the early history of electric lighting. Wire which would not now be used to convey fire alarm signals, was in many instances connected into an electric light service; and it always managed to find its



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way into the line at the point where the danger of forming a destructive arc was the most imminent. The natural result was many large fires, which were more often than otherwise charged either to incendiarism, or that other very indefinite cause, spontaneous combustion. We now know that the occasions where spontaneous combustion causes a conflagration are extremely rare, outside of certain well defined conditions, such as the heating of cotton in the hold of a vessel and careless placing of soiled waste.

As a matter of fact, a series of experiments was conducted a few years ago for the purpose of producing fire under all conceivable conditions, precedent to spontaneous combustion, and also to ignite woodwork by means of superheated steam. The experiments were pronounced failures.

It was found, however, that defective insulation of electric light and power currents was a pregnant cause of fire. Indeed, if the losses from this cause alone could be tabulated, the aggregate would doubtless be staggering.

That there has been a notable change in this regard is now apparent to all who have taken pains to investigate the subject. While it is true that much of the improvement on these lines is due to newer and better wire covering and modern methods of wiring cannot be gainsaid. At the same time it is unquestionably true that much of the betterment is due to increased skill and conscientious work on the part of the workers, to whom the actual installation is entrusted.

If a wireman is ignorant, careless or indifferent to consequences, it is of very little avail that a given scheme of wiring has been laid out with the most elaborate care, and according to the most approved methods. One of the most destructive, electrically caused fires of recent years, originated in a building in which the initial wiring was as absolutely perfect as late improvements and good workmanship could make it. In the rush of holiday displays a show window—filled with inflammable fabrics,—was temporarily wired. The work was done in a hurry, and very little attention seems to have been given to it.

It was the old story of the weakest link in a chain. When the cross came, all of the system's perfection of insulation and care in installing the wire scheme of the building, and the rigid inspection by the fire underwriters, availed nothing. An arc formed in an insignificant bit of unworkmanlike construction, and over \$600,000 worth of property went up in smoke.

In view of this and other instances, parallel in everything but the amount of pecuniary loss, it would seem that any wire installation which is worth making, is worth making well. In the instance just given, if the same care bestowed upon the general wiring scheme had been continued in the temporary work in the display window, a disaster would have been averted.

It goes without saying that all this is commonplace; that everybody should know better than to take slop work on a proper job of wiring. That is true. Yet if the reports of the National Board of

Underwriters on fires caused by electricity are scanned even superficially, it will be found that an astonishing number of fires are caused by temporary wire construction, in which the insulation is so bad that it renders all of the work which has been well done of no avail.

It is an unfortunate fact that many wiremen look upon the inspection by the fire underwriters as a sort of grievance; that it is unnecessarily strict and burdensome; and the inspectors are regarded as a nuisance. Not that it is intended to scamp work, but the presence of these inquisitive, watchful, and sometimes very persistent officials is taken in a manner as a reflection upon the workman.

I fancy that this is not the spirit which inspires the underwriters or their agents. Certain it is that, in the cities where this inspection has been the most vigorous, and where scarcely a joint could be tapped without coming under the notice of inspectors, there fewer fires traceable to electricity have occurred, and there, generally speaking, the most moderate rates of premium prevail.

And now, after all has been said, it reduces itself to the conscientious work done by the men who actually do the wiring. Such being the case, the reduction in the number of fires caused by electricity is a matter of congratulation to electrical workers; and in a good many cities they are worthy of the commendation they received from the underwriters.

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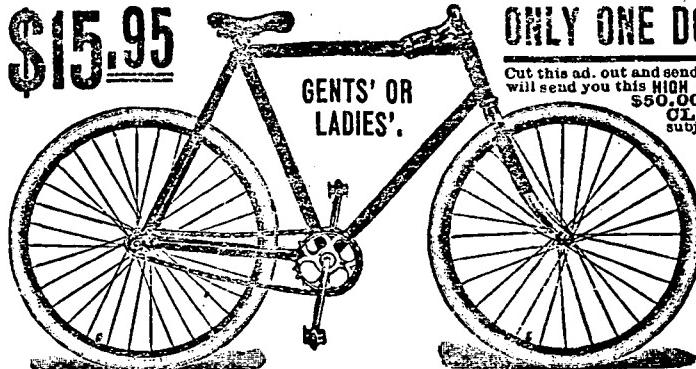
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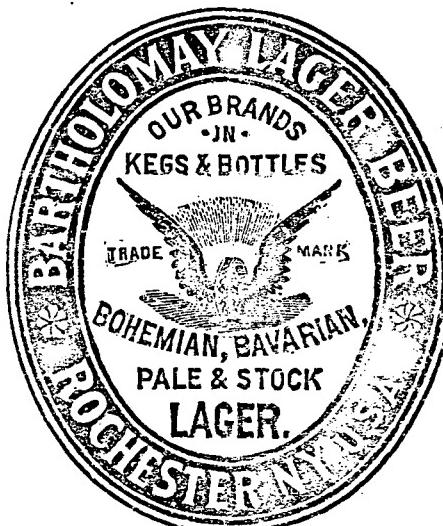
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No. 2, Kansas City, Mo.—Pres., J. L. Cochran, 216 West 10th st.; K. C. Mo.; R. S., E. P. Myrick, 1246 Penn st., K. C., Mo.; F. S., J. J. Saxe, 1501 Penn st., K. C., Mo.

No. 3, St. Louis, Mo.—Meets every Thursday at 603 Market st.; Pres., W. M. McCoy, 16 S. 17th st.; R. S., J. O'Brien, 1011 N. Leffingwell av.; F. S., Frank Pierpont, 3323 Manchester av.

No. 4, New Orleans, La.—Meets 1st and 3d Tuesdays at Carondelet and Perdido sts.; Pres., C. D. Hatt, 928 Common st.; F. S., George E. Wells, 724 Camp st.; R. S., Chas. Elmore, 1326 South Rampart st.

No. 5, Pittsburgh, Pa.—Meets every Friday night in Schmitt's Bldg., cor. Water and Market sts.; Pres., H. H. Haas, Oak Station P. O., Pittsburgh; R. S., Frank Lunney, 301 Robinson st., Allegheny City; F. S., P. G. Randolph, 805 Walnut st., Station D, Wilkinsburg, Pa.

No. 6, San Francisco, Cal.—Meets 2d and 4th Wednesdays at Foresters' Hall, 20 Eddy st.; Pres., J. J. Cameron, 283 Clementina st.; R. S., A. A. Whitfield, 932 Natoma st.; F. S., R. P. Gale, 1210 Broadway st.

No. 7, Springfield, Mass.—Meets every Wednesday at room 14 Barnes Bldg., Pres., G. T. McGilvray, 30 Besse Pl.; R. S., T. J. Lynch, Chicopee Falls, Mass.; F. S., M. Farrell, 59 Broadway st.

No. 8, Toledo, Ohio.—Meets every Monday at Friendship Hall; Pres., C. W. Schausten, 1846 Ontario st.; R. S., J. J. Duck, 701 South st.; F. S., F. M. Gensbecker, 713 Colburn st.

No. 9, Chicago, Ill.—Meets every Saturday at 33 Madison st., Hall 3. Pres., H. Cullen, 53 Aberdean st.; R. S., J. E. Poling, 922 W. 53rd st.; F. S., J. Driscoll, 77 Fuller st.

No. 10, Indianapolis, Ind.—Meets every Monday at Mozart Hall, 39 S. Del. st.; Pres., John Berry, care Hdqrs. Fire Dept.; R. S., Geo. R. Beecher, 813 N. Senate av.; F. S., C. J. Langdon, 801 West Pratt st.

No. 11, Greater New York—Pres., W. W. Vaughan, 9 Nassau st., Brooklyn; R. S., Chas. L. Rogers, 134½ Kresciusko st., Brooklyn; F. S., F. G. Orrt, 334 First st., Brooklyn.

No. 12, Detroit, Mich.—Meets every Tuesday night at No. 9 Cadillac sq.; Pres., R. Scanlan, 90 Porter st.; R. S., G. H. Brown, 50 Chester av.; F. S., T. Forbes, 1104 13th st.

No. 13, Kansas City, Mo.—Meets every Friday night, Labor Hdqrs., 111½ Walnut st.; Pres., H. Waterous, 935 Osage ave.; X. C. Kan.; R. S., F. J. Schiavel, 612 Wall st., K. C., Mo.; F. S., C. F. Drolenger, 613 Delaware st., K. C., Mo.

No. 14, Atchison, Kan.—Pres., F. J. Roth, 906 N. Tenth st.; R. S., H. G. Wickershaw; F. S., R. E. Maston, 600 Conil st.

No. 22, Omaha, Neb.—Meets every Wednesday at Labor Temple, 17th & Douglas sts.; Pres., W. P. Lerdom, 2020 Grove st.; R. S., J. F. Simpson, 3519 W. Farnum st.; F. S., M. J. Curran, 617 S. 16th st.

No. 23, St. Paul, Minn.—Pres., J. V. Readhouse, 150 Sherburne av.; R. S., W. B. Tubbesing, 497 Martin st.; F. S., A. H. Garrett, 175 Richmond st.

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No. 25, Louisville, Ky.—Meets first and third Thursdays of each month; Pres., James Allen, Columbia Bldg., 4th and Main sts.; F. S., E. H. Veuerable, 405 W. Market st.; R. S., McGonigale Miller, care Union Hall, 5½ 5th st.

No. 26, Washington, D. C.—Meets every Saturday at 628 Louisiana av.; Pres., John Heffeker, 1007 N. Carolina av.; R. S., J. C. O'Connell, 930 H. st., N. W.; F. S., G. A. Malone, 48 L. st., N. W.

No. 27, Baltimore, Md.—Meets every Monday at Hall cor. Fayette and Park avs.; Pres., W. W. Welsh, 1420 Aisquith st.; R. S., Wm. P. Kelly, 405 E. Lanvale st.; F. S., F. H. Russell, 14c½ Aisquith st.

No. 30, Cincinnati, O.—Meets 1st and 3d Mondays at 135 E. Court st.; Pres., Wm. Williams, 1225 Broadway; R. S., Wm. Price, 1045 Celestial st., Mt. Auburn City; F. S., Geo. R. Hindebrand, 403 E. 3rd st., Cincinnati, Ohio.

No. 31, Anaconda, Mont.—Pres., Thos. Dwyer, care Fiedl's Light Co.; R. S., J. F. Reed; F. S., Chas. McDonald, Carroll, Mont.

No. 32, Lima, O.—Pres., O. G. Snyder, 812 High st.; R. S., W. C. Holmes, 110 Union Ave., Lima, Ohio; F. S., Wm. K. Kraus, 213 E. Wayne st.

No. 33, Boston, Mass.—Meets every Wednesday at 49 Bennett st.; Pres., T. R. McVille, 21 Moulton st., Charlestown, Mass.; R. S., J. P. Jeffers, 27 McLean st.; F. S., W. C. Woodward, 10 Church st.

No. 36, Sacramento, Cal.—Meets 1st and 3d Tuesdays at Foresters' Hall; Pres., Chas. M. Durkee, 624 G st.; R. S., William F. Morley, 529½ K st.; F. S., F. O. Blutton, 1617 M. st.

No. 37, Hartford, Conn.—Meets every Wednesday at 603 Main st.; Pres., W. H. Crawley, 23 Spring st.; R. S., M. P. Sullivan, 177 Asylum st.; F. S., J. J. Tracy, 33 Temple st.

No. 38, Cleveland, O.—Meets every Wednesday night at 330 Ontario st.; Pres., Geo. M. Gleason, 1121 St. Clair st.; R. S., R. M. Ross, 39 Colgate st.; F. S., A. Herron, 4 Wallace st.

No. 40, St. Joseph, Mo.—Meets every Thursday night at Brock Hall, 8th and Locust sts.; Pres., Frank P. St. Clair, R'y Co.; R. S., Wm. T. Dorsel, R'y Co.; F. S., J. C. Schneider, City Elec. St. Co.

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No. 42, Utica, N. Y.—Pres., W. T. Carter, 68 Neilson st.; R. S., G. O. Carter, 26 Elm st.; F. S., F. Danaher, 210 Blandina st.

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No. 44, Rochester, N. Y.—Meets 2d and 4th Wednesdays at Odd Fellows' Hall, State st.; Pres., J. P. Wolff, 9 Cedar st.; R. S., A. L. Denniston, 14 Baldwin st.; F. S., Fred Martin, 50 Champlain st.

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No. 52, Newark, N. J.—Pres., J. H. Thomas, 345 W. 59th st.; R. S., N. Y. City; R. S., W. S. Harrington, 24 Willow st., Bloomfield N. J.; F. S., Ed. Blakelock, 7 Liuden st., Newark, N. J.

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No. 57, Salt Lake City, Utah.—Pres., J. R. Blair, 258 S. 2nd East st.; R. S., J. Hodgson, Utah Power House; F. S., A. W. Scott, Valley House.

No. 60, San Antonio, Tex.—Meets 1st and 3d Saturdays at 8 p. m., in Painters' Hall, 131 Soldad st.; Pres., Martin Wright, 114 Romana st.; R. S., A. C. Lehman, 116 Nebraska st.; F. S., Chas. E. McNamee, 818 Av. D.

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No. 63, Warren, Pa.—Meets 1st and 3d Wednesdays at D. O. H. Hall, cor. 2d and Liberty sts.; Pres., F. W. Lesser, Liberty st.; R. S., R. Y. Edens, Revere House; F. S., N. H. Spencer, Rogers Bld.

No. 65, Butte, Mont.—Meets 2d and 4th Wednesdays in Good Templars' Hall; Pres., Jas. Davidson, 149 Owsley Bldg.; R. S., W. C. Medhurst, P. O. Box 846; F. S., E. M. DeMers, P. O. Box 846.

No. 66, Eltonston, Tex.—Meets 1st and 3d Mondays; Pres., Geo. O. Wood, 1203 Capital av.; R. S., W. P. Johnson, Telephone Office; F. S., W. P. Caywood, 1413 Franklin av.

No. 67, Quincy, Ill.—Meets 2d and 4th Wednesdays at Trades' Assembly Hall, S. 8th st.; Pres., J. H. Nessler, 525 Maiden Lane st.; J. M. Redmond, 825 Jersey st.; F. S., C. H. McNemee, 511 S. 7th st.

No. 68, Denver, Col.—Meets Monday nights at 1731 Arapaho st., Club Bldg.; Pres., F. Fleeger, 1931 Penn av.; R. S., F. A. Warner, 1110 Larimer st.; F. S., C. W. Armstrong, 634 30th av.

No. 69, Dallas, Tex.—Meets every Tuesday evening at Labor Hall; Pres., P. F. Barnes, 147 Akard st.; R. S., C. E. Boston, 438 Main st.; F. S., C. T. Wheeler, 438 Main st.

No. 70, Springfield, Ill.—Meets 1st and 3d Thursdays at Carpenters' Hall, S. 4th st.; Pres., Fred Miller, Staley Hotel; R. S., Chas. Danielson, 1118 E. Jackson st.; F. S., S. Phillips, 942 N. 3d st.

No. 71, Galveston, Tex.—Meets 2d and 4th Thursdays, Cooks and Waiters' Hall, 23d st. between Market and Mechanic; Pres., J. F. Payne, 1528 22d st.; R. S., D. L. Goble, 3320 R. ½ st.; F. S., W. F. Cunningham, 2122 Ave. F. ½.

No. 72, Waco, Tex.—Meets 2d and 4th Wednesdays at Labor Hall; Pres., J. E. Caple, 1018 N. 7th st.; R. S., W. D. Harold, 1801 Herring av.; F. S., Joseph Hedges, 728 S. 6th st.

No. 73, Spokane, Wash.—Meets 1st and 3d Wednesdays in K. of P. Hall, 816 Riverside av.; Pres., Eli Hensley, 218 Riverside av.; R. S., L. Van Ingen, 919 Ash st.; F. S., D. Lorimer, 1723 Fifth av.

No. 74, Winona, Minn.—Pres., H. B. Klein, 510 Olmstead st.; R. S., P. Fromin, 510 Olmstead st.; F. S., Joseph Trautner, 620 E. 3rd st.

No. 75, Grand Rapids, Mich.—Meets 1st and 3d Sundays; Pres., Jas. Newland, 16 Kennedy st.; R. S., C. M. Bun, 190 Sheldon st.; F. S., C. E. Post, 132 Winter st.

No. 76, Tacoma, Wash.—Pres., Wm. King, 1136 D st.; R. S., W. J. Love, 113 10th st.; F. S., Jas. Murray, 1118 D st.

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No. 78, Chicago, Ill.—Pres., W. J. McCormick, 720½ St. Lawrence ave.; R. S., George H. Foltz, 352 W. Adams st.; R. S., W. T. Tonner, 1479 Ohio st.

No. 80, Norfolk, Va.—Pres., C. W. Breedlove, 22 Falkland st., Norfolk, Va.; R. S., Hill, 216 N. Marshall av., Norfolk, Va.

